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XXXII. PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE, &c. *By Dr.* DICKSON. [*Continued.*]

THE ſecond ſection of this elaborate work is dedicated to the conſideration of farm-houſes and offices, under the ſeparate heads of Farm-buildings, Farm-houſes, Barns, Granaries, Stables, Cow and Feeding-houſes, Calf-pens, Dairies, Sheds, Straw-houſes, Root-houſes, Poultry-houſes, Hog-ſties, Coal and Wood-houſes, Work-ſhops, Tool-houſes, Store-rooms, Farm and Servants' Rooms, Pigeon-houſes, Conveniencies for preparing Food for Cattle, as Steam-boilers, Corn-cheſts, Corn-ſtands, Bee ſtands; and it is concluded with a few conſiderations on the ſituation and arrangement of Farm-houſes and Offices. We ſhall preſent our readers with as full an analyſis of this ſection as we did of the laſt, in order to give them as accurate a view of the author's induſtry as poſſible.

He begins with conſidering the various circumſtances to be attended to in the erection and ſituations of the different ſtructures neceſſary for farms. The conſtruction of *Farm buildings* has hitherto had too little attention beſtowed on it: they ſhould be ſo contrived, that facility and diſpatch of buſineſs may be connected with their form and arrangement; conſequently, a commodious diſtribution of them will be neceſſary; becauſe, when that is not the caſe, much time may be loſt in the conveyance of materials: their ſize ſhould be proportionate to that of the farm; as when it is of the grazing kind, few out-buildings are neceſſary, and thoſe principally of the ſhed kind. Permanent roofs are moſtly advantageous in this kind of ſtructure; yet much expence will be ſaved by walls, with occaſional coverings; but this plan is only to be recommended in particular caſes.—Sheds ſhould be of different kinds; cool ones being neceſſary for ſtore cattle, and warm ones for the feeding of ſtock. The different accommodations neceſſary for dairy-farms are principally cow-houſes, which ſhould be large; there ſhould alſo be ſufficient conveniences for the various operations of the dairy. The buildings neceſſary for corn-farms are far more numerous, and ſhould be calculated to ſuit a variety of purpoſes: the ſtables ſhould be ſufficiently large; the cow and feeding houſes adapted to the number and kind of cattle; and the barn and granaries ſufficiently capacious to afford convenient room for chambering the corn, without crouding or laying it too thick: where thraſhing-machines, however, are erected, they need not be ſo extenſive. A variety of conveniencies are alſo neceſſary for young animals of different kinds, as horſes, cattle, hogs, and poultry.

The dimenſions of the *Farm houses* ſhould be regulated by the ſize of the farm: they ſhould be airy and commodious; and the ground-floor plan ſhould embrace a parlour, kitchen, back-kitchen, cloſets for various ar-

ticles, dairy, pantry, and a cellar. The upper ſtory ſhould be divided into lodging-rooms, which ſhould be ſufficiently large for the ſake of ventilation; and for this purpoſe, windows more outward in the walls than ordinary are advantageous; the ground-floors alſo ſhould be raiſed a foot or more. Hip roofs are preferable to gable ends in the conſtruction of farm houſes: the thickneſs of the walls ſhould be according to the materials of which they are built, but they ſhould not, as a general rule, be made too thin, becauſe they would be too eaſily penetrated by the ſun, or by cold: one of the principal objects to be attended to in the conſtruction of buildings of this ſort ſhould be convenience and cheapneſs.

The ſize and conſtruction of *Barns* ſhould be various; for, where thraſhing machines and ſtacking are in uſe, large ones are unneceſſary; but they ſhould be of larger dimenſions where the flail and houſing of grain are practiſed; and in order to a proper ventilation, ſlides, or ſomething of a ſimilar kind, are neceſſary for the free admiſſion of air. The floors of barns ſhould be conſtructed of the beſt oak plank, thoſe of clay and other ſimilar kinds of compoſition being liable to crack and break up; an inconvenience which will be avoided by making them of wood. When they are to be formed of plank, the author adviſes that they be well ploughed and tongued, ſo as to join exactly; and that they have a foundation of brick-work, which renders them more ſecure and freer from damps than when nailed to ſleepers: brick floors, however, are nearly equal in utility. The thraſhing-floor ſhould be large enough to be commodious; and for that purpoſe eighteen feet by twelve will in general be a good ſize: an addition of flues and drying floors will often be uſeful in damp weather. It may not be altogether unadviſable to place the cow-houſes and other offices on the ground floor of barns; this method being attended with leſs expence, a ſaving of room and of grain, and chamber barn-floors are eaſier to thraſh on. Pitch holes are uſeful and neceſſary in every form of barn, as unloading corn is rendered more expeditious by their means.

The *Granaries* ſhould be firmly built, have extenſive flooring, and be ſo contrived as to avoid labour; which can readily be done, by means of a particular conſtruction of the floors. Free ventilation by latticed or other windows, is indiſpenſibly neceſſary to good granaries; and further to contribute to that purpoſe, and as an additional ſecurity, ſpouts or ventilators at the top will be uſeful. The beſt form for granaries is a ſquare; and it will be of great utility to build them on ſhort poſts or pillars of ſtone, and to line them with boards cloſely joined together; it will be adviſable alſo to cover the outſide with weather-boarding. In common granaries, however, attention to all theſe points is not neceſſary, nor need they be ſo ſtrongly or ſo expenſively built.—The author concludes this article, with adding, that the moſt proper ſituation for them is in the barn where houſing grain is not in practice; and whether placed there or elſewhere, machines for raiſing corn will always be a deſirable appendage.

The next object of the author's attention is *Stables*, in the conſtruction of which elegance is not always a requiſite, comfortable and convenient ones being all that is neceſſary; hence they ſhould be ſo contrived as to preſerve an equality of temperature at different ſeaſons, and ſhould be provided with proper drains for the removal of moiſture. Moveable ſhutters, uſed as windows, ſave expence. Racks and mangers require more regard to economy and convenience in their conſtruction than is

uſually beſtowed on them, large ones being diſadvantageous. They ſhould have a more perpendicular poſition than is uſual, and be placed conveniently in niches in the walls, with contrivances at the bottom for the collection of hay-ſeeds, by means of which much trouble and waſte of ſeed is avoided; hatches alſo ſave much time in feeding. The mangers need not be the width of the ſtalls, and ſmall boxes are a convenient ſubſtitute for them. The author next gives us a cheap method of forming ſtalls and racks; which ſhould, like the others, be ſparred at the bottom, with a box underneath to collect the hay ſeeds. With reſpect to ſtalls, ſingle are better than double ones. The utmoſt attention ſhould be paid to the paving of ſtables; they ought to approach to a level, but ſhould be ſo conſtructed that the moiſture may be eaſily removed by middle drains; all of which ſhould empty into a large one; and for the better accompliſhing that purpoſe, it will be adviſable to cover the ſtall drains with perforated oak plank. The main drains ſhould be placed at the ends or bottoms of the ſtalls; and as a ſubſtitute for them, ſhallow open drains would ſave much expence; in either caſe, however, the pavement of the ſtalls ſhould have a ſlight inclination towards them, as that mode of conſtructing them is attended with much comfort to the horſes. With reſpect to the ſize of ſtalls, the author thinks five feet to be a good width: the diviſions between them ſhould be high, and for ſtallions and young horſes ſparred to the top, or divided by doors, hung to the back poſts of the ſtables; which laſt method is uſeful for mares and foals.—The place for keeping the harneſs ſhould be near the ſtable, for the purpoſe of convenience and ſaving time. The author cloſes this article with deſcribing the beſt ſituation for the corn-bin, which had better be high, and when ſo ſituated ſhould have a ſpout for the convenience of feeding; a mode attended with numerous advantages.

The author is next employed on the conſideration of *Cow* and *Feeding-houſes*. Theſe ſtructures are in general nearly ſimilar, and ſometimes include the calf-pens, a plan, however, not altogether to be recommended, as they had better be at a ſmall diſtance. The cow and feeding houſes may be contrived without difficulty to ſuit either purpoſe, either in the form of ſingle or double ſheds. Their principal qualifications muſt be, that they are capable of free ventilation, require little labour in cleaning, and have drains to keep the cattle dry: a free circulation of air being abſolutely neceſſary to the well-being of the cattle, otherwiſe they would be liable to diſeaſe. For the purpoſe of promoting theſe deſirable ends, various contrivances may be reſorted to, ſuch as ſheds open behind, air-holes in roofs, or windows in the gable ends; each of theſe ways has its advantages, and the feeding of animals is much promoted by theſe means. The author next gives us the moſt uſeful mode of conſtruction, and the circumſtances to be attended to therein, as he conceives the common method of building cow-houſes to be injudicious. Feeding-holes without, are liable to ſome objections; and he therefore gives the moſt convenient plan for feeding in ſingle ſheds. Double ſheds are more economical and uſeful, as they require leſs extent of ground, and occaſion leſs deſtruction of fodder. It has been ſuppoſed that rooms would always be uſeful over double ſheds; they would not, however, be ſo advantageous, and the author gives us the opinion of an intelligent feeder on this queſtion, who thinks them prejudicial for ſeveral reaſons: he alſo preſents his plan, which includes a ſide-room for the reception of the

food. The keeping of cattle clean and dry is a circumſtance of much importance, and conſequently contrivances for leſſening labour are eſſentially neceſſary; the principal means of doing which are attention to the paving of ſtalls, which, however, is frequently not done. Double ſtalls are uſeful, but the expence of them is greater, and in many caſes they are unneceſſary. Conveniencies for food and water muſt be provided, and drains and reſervoirs ſhould conſtantly be formed, and would aſſiſt in facilitating feeding.

The beſt ſituation for *Calf-pens* is near the cow-houſe; and theſe places being uſually, unleſs well attended to, affected with a diſagreeable effluvium, the author gives a method of laying the floor, which would obviate this circumſtance.—Moveable diviſions are uſeful in theſe ſtructures; and troughs and racks are ſometimes neceſſary, in order to a more equal diſtribution of food; but in general they are not requiſite.

The next article is dedicated to the conſideration of *Dairies*, which, when good ones, are attended with ſome advantages. They are of different ſorts; and the author gives the conſtruction, proper ſituation of, and covering for each, which ſhould be generally thatch. Their walls ſhould be conſtructed of ſtone, which will contribute to an equality of temperature, a circumſtance of the utmoſt importance, and their ceilings of a proper height, ſo as to admit of high windows, which are uſeful and neceſſary, and which laſt ſhould have frames with gauze ſtretched over them. The author mentions flags as the beſt materials for the conſtruction of floors, and gives the proper manner of laying them. It will be always neceſſary to have a well as near the dairy as poſſible.—We have next directions for fitting up a dairy, with neceſſary veſſels, and the proper materials of which thoſe deſtined for holding milk ought to be made; theſe are lead, marble, or ſlate: if of the firſt, however, they muſt always be kept peculiarly clean. They ſhould have proper holes through the bottom, with plugs to let out the milk or the water after waſhing. A large cock will alſo be neceſſary, and ſhould be ſo contrived as to let water on the floor for the purpoſe of waſhing it, or cooling the room; and, as an equability of temperature is of much importance, it will be well to have proper flues to heat the dairy when the weather is too cold. The circumſtances to be attended to in the ceilings and walls are next detailed. The churning-room ſhould be near the milk-houſe; and a fire-place will be neceſſary where the utenſils are kept; as alſo ſtone ſlabs on its outſide, for the purpoſe of drying the veſſels in the open air: care, however, muſt be taken againſt ſmoky chimnies, as they are extremely prejudicial. The milk-houſe for the *Cheese-dairy* ſhould be nearly ſimilar to the other; and here too it is ſometimes uſeful to have milk-ſhelves. The preſſing or ſcalding houſe ſhould be on the ſame plan as that for churning; and it will be always adviſable to have a good preſs in the ſalting-room: it ſhould alſo be laid with flags, and poſſeſs a ſtrong table and a ſhelf.—The beſt ſituation for the cheeſe-room will be over the dairy; but it is uſually over the kitchen or the cow-houſe, ſuch ſituations being uſually ſuppoſed to promote the ripening of the cheeſe.

The author is brief on the remaining ſubjects of this ſection, which are ſtill numerous, and we ſhall paſs over them as quickly as poſſible: the firſt is on the utility, conſtruction, and convenience of *Sheds*. *Straw-houses* are frequently uſeful, as they ſave both ſtraw and time, and prevent dirt and litter over the yard. *Root-houses* are neceſſary for the ſtowing of winter food; but ſome of the more ſucculent vegetables, as cab-

bages, are apt to ferment when laid on heaps. *Poultry-houſes* ſhould be airy and large, and it will be better that each ſpecies have its own room. The *Hog-ſties* ſhould be dry and warm, and have troughs in them, ſo contrived as to prevent waſte of food, and in many caſes it will be requiſite to have boilers near them to prepare it. The author next diſcuſſes the moſt uſeful conſtruction of *Coal* and *Wood-houſes*; the utility of *Work-ſhops*; the circumſtances relating to *Tool-houſes*; and the beſt ſituation for, and various uſes of *Store-houſes*. *Farm Servants' Rooms* are not only uſeful but neceſſary on large farms, and are attended with many advantages as well as conveniencies. The beſt ſituation is probably at a diſtance from the houſe: the ground-floors ſhould be of ſtone or brick, and the chamber-floors of plaiſter or brick, in which caſe the joiſts ſhould be laid to ſuit the deſigned covering. The beds ſhould be contrived to take up the leaſt poſſible room; but it would be diſadvantageous to the health of the ſervants to be too niggardly in this reſpect. The *Pigeon-houſes* ſhould be large and roomy; and the beſt ſituation for them will be at ſome little diſtance from the noiſe and buſtle of the yard: the form of them is not material, but the floor ſhould not be too near the ground; hence, they may be advantageouſly conſtructed, with ſheds under them: we fancy, however, that in this caſe, the floors ſhould not be conſtructed of ſuch materials as will readily tranſmit ſounds, as the pigeons may be driven from their neſts when ſitting. The covering ſhould be ſuch as will keep the houſe of an even temperature; they ſhould alſo be ſecure againſt vermin. The conſtruction of pigeon-houſes, when built ſeparately, is next given; they ſhould be made of ſuch materials as will keep an even warmth; hence wood cots are objectionable, from ſubjecting the pigeons to heat in ſummer, and cold in winter. The entrances for the birds ſhould face the ſouth, and ſhould not be too large; they ſhould be protected with a weather-boarding. This article is cloſed with the beſt method of forming good neſts.

The advantages of conveniencies for preparing food for cattle are numerous; and they ſhould be conſtructed with a view to ſaving time, and to the extent of the farm. The *Steam-boiler* is deſcribed, and its utility commented on. *Corn-cheſts* are both neceſſary and economical; and for the purpoſe a ſmall tub will often be all that is neceſſary: but in large farms the ſame method of conſtruction as that recommended for the granary may be adopted for them. *Corn-ſtands* or *Staddles* may be conſtructed in various ways, and of various materials. The author gives the form of thoſe of the Duke of Bedford's, at Woburn, with the peculiar circumſtances attended to in their formation. The beſt materials for their bottoms are ſlates or flags; but theſe are not neceſſary when the bottoms are well laid. The article is concluded by deſcribing one uſed by Mr. Bakewell.

The beſt ſituation for and conſtruction of the *Bee-houſe* is next given; and is followed by ſome general conſiderations on *Farm-houſes* and *Offices*, which cloſe the ſection. The proper ſituation of farm-houſes is as near the centre of the farm as poſſible; and they ſhould be built and arranged with a view to economy and ſaving of time. A ſquare is the moſt proper form with the offices built on the expoſed ſides, a circumſtance not commonly attended to in their erection. The houſe had better in common be a little diſtance from the offices: yet, in general, it will be adviſable that they be ſo ſituated as to overlook the operations of the yard: they muſt alſo be adapted to the buſineſs, corn and a dairy-farm requiring buildings in ſome meaſure

different. The nature of the ground will frequently determine the situation on which they should be erected. This section is closed with a variety of estimates, and general observations on the expence of farm-buildings.

The plates accompanying this section are—18. Barns, including plans and elevations, with letter-press descriptions, of a double, improved, and open barn, as also one with a Granary and Thrashing-Machine.—19. Stacking Apparatus and Granary.—20. Horse-stalls and single Cattle Sheds.—21. Double CattleSheds.—22. Dairy-house and Implements, including four kinds of Churns, and Cheese-press.——23. Steam-boiler, Corn-bruising Machine, and Potatoe-scoops.—24. Mills, including a Portuguese and a Hand-mill.—25. Dairy Farm-houses and Offices, with Plans and Elevations.—26. Corn Farm-houses and Offices, with Plans and Elevations.——27. Mixed Farm-houses and Offices.

Having entered thus largely into an account of the contents of the two first sections, with a view of enabling our readers to judge of the extent of the author's research; we shall be much more brief in treating of the remainder; and shall consequently confine our attention to the general heads of each subject.

The third section treats on FARM-COTTAGES, with the advantages which would result both to the farmer and to the labourer, were the subject properly attended to; more particularly were proper regulations made between them. The neglected situation of this valuable class of men forms a proper subject for discussion; and we hope that, amongst the multiplied attempts to better the interests of agriculture, the improvement of the condition of day-labourers will meet with every proper encouragement.

A plate, No. 28, is adjoined, which contains plans and elevations of eight different kinds of cottages, all on as cheap a construction as possible.

The fourth section is on the INCLOSURE of LAND, in which the advantages of that practice are detailed at large. The circumstances to be regarded in the construction of fences, whether *Walls*, *Pales*, *Live-hedges*, or *Ditches*, are next discussed; together with the various modes of constructing *Gates* and *Stiles*.—A few general observations on fences, and on the means of making, managing, and preserving them, terminate the section.

The plates are—29. Wall and Earth Fences; in which we find representations of fourteen methods of constructing fences of these materials.—30. Paling Fences; containing thirteen species of paling.—31, 32, and 33, Hedge Fences; representing twenty-four forms of raising fences of this kind.—34. Gates and Stiles; in which we find fourteen methods of construction for these necessary, and little attended to, appendages to fencing. C.

XXXIII. *A* SERIES *of* ESSAYS, *introductory to the* STUDY *of* NATURAL HISTORY, *By* FENWICK SKRIMSHIRE, *M. D. Two Vols. 12mo. 7s. boards.* 1805. Johnson.

IT will undoubtedly be allowed by every man who has thought on the subject, that any member of a given society, who is subject to its laws, ought, in case of delinquency, to be tried for those offences alone of which he may be guilty.—That every person, who sends a book into the world, should be accounted a transgressor, is as unfair as it is unreasonable; yet, truth compels us to acknowledge, that such is the spirit of the times, and such the suspicion, whether well or ill founded, which has seized the minds of the generality of mankind, that to publish is to undergo trial; and con-

demnation, far oftener than approbation, is the ſentence of the tribunal, which ſtands between the public and the literary adventurer.

The reaſons of the unfavourable ſentences, which we often ſee paſſed on literary productions, are various; and amongſt theſe, a principal one often ariſes from judging an author, not by what he profeſſes to accompliſh, but from what he ought to have done: this, as we have hinted above, we think to be in a great meaſure unreaſonable; for conſidering the preſent ſtate of mankind, in which the bad ſo often predominates, we have no right to expect a good, without its accompanying abuſe in matters of this ſort. Hence, if it be neceſſary that we ſhould have a number of books, it muſt unavoidably follow that they muſt often prove both ill planned and ill executed; and this idea will receive additional corroboration from reflecting on the ſmallneſs of the number of thoſe who think, and from the ſtill ſmaller number poſſeſſed of profundity of judgment, or brilliancy of talents.—Another reaſon for the paſſing of unfavourable ſentences, often originates in the incapacity, and occaſionally even from the malignity of the judges and the jurors in theſe caſes. But whilſt we cenſure let us endeavour to be juſt: we muſt confeſs, that the moſt formidable reaſon of all, often ariſes from the want of ability at planning, or of executing in the delinquent himſelf.

The faireſt method, however, of putting an author on his trial, muſt be allowed to be that which examines and weighs the nature and magnitude of the offence, and in reference to the particular claſs of laws which are violated. Should he ſet off with ſketching out his plan and deſign, we have a fair chance of judging him from his own mouth; and in this caſe, ſuch is the conſtitution of the republic of letters, that the thinking part of his judges allow him to be tried by no other laws than thoſe voluntarily impoſed on himſelf, and by laws which generally relate to execution. The fairneſs, therefore, of this principle, we contend to be ſuch, as to leave no room, for the moſt grievous offender, to urge a rational objection againſt being called before judges governed by ſuch laws.

In compliance, therefore, with the principles above laid down, we proceed to examine into the merits of Dr. Skrimſhire's Eſſays, and dropping all allegory, we ſhall firſt preſent our readers with the preface; which will enable them to form their own judgment of the plan of his work.

"The materials of which the preſent Eſſays are compoſed, were originally collected, as mentioned in the preface to 'A Series of Popular Chymical Eſſays,"* with a view of delivering a courſe of Lectures on Chymiſtry and Natural Hiſtory. The author's firſt intention being fruſtrated by profeſſional engagements, he has thrown them into the form of eſſays, and reſpectfully offers them to the public in this dreſs.

"It is the author's intention to make his readers acquainted with the full extent and important advantages of the ſtudy of Natural Hiſtory; and, by ſelecting many uſeful as well as intereſting topics of inquiry, to inſtil into the reader's mind a thirſt for further knowledge, and for a more intimate acquaintance with the ſcience. It cannot therefore properly be called an elementary work, though it contains a conciſe view of the claſſification of natural objects; neither does the author profeſs it to be a ſyſtem of Natural Hiſtory.

"It is calculated rather for the general reader, who deſires only to be acquainted with the extent of the ſcience, its general diviſions, and the particular objects of inquiry which each branch comprifes. And the author flatters himſelf that it may with advantage be put into the hands

* A former production of the doctor's.

of young ſtudents, to prepare them, by a general glance, at the whole ſcience, for a more ſerious application to any one department in particular.

"The author has been anxious, through the whole work, to impreſs the reader's mind with the *utility* of the ſcience: he has endeavoured to draw him from application to the mere claſſifying and arranging of natural objects, by pointing out a variety of important ſubjects for his inveſtigation; and by connecting with it pleaſing views of the plans of Providence, and occaſional moral reflections.

"Should it appear that thoſe naturaliſts are treated with too much ſeverity, who confine their purſuits to the collection and arrangement of plants, inſects, ſhells, or foſſils; or that the founders of ſyſtems, and the inventors of an appropriate and accurate language of the ſcience have not been mentioned with ſufficient acknowledgments of their great merits; let it be attributed to an earneſt deſire that young ſtudents ſhould be taught to conſider claſſification as a help merely, not as the ultimate object of their purſuits. The author has a very high ſenſe of the merits of the great Linnæus, and of all who, by their aſſiduity in collecting and comparing ſpecimens in Natural Hiſtory, are extending and correcting our knowledge of Nature. But now that we have ſo good a guide, and now that ſo few who purſue this ſtudy can hope to improve or extend its limits, it is ſurely right that their attention ſhould be turned to other, and thoſe important and improving, ſubjects of inveſtigation.

"Should any readers likewiſe be led to ſuppoſe that the ſubject of natural theology is too frequently introduced, or that the ſame thoughts on that ſubject are too often repeated, they are requeſted to *conſider* how highly neceſſary it is to bring the younger ſtudents to a habit of conſtantly connecting ſuch views with the ſcience we are treating of, leſt by admiring the productions of Nature, without at the ſame time contemplating the Creator, they loſe the moſt important benefit of their ſtudies."

We are no leſs ſorry that the ſpirit of the times ſhould render the laſt paragraph neceſſary, than we are pleaſed with its concluſion: yet, we think that the author would have diſplayed equal manlineſs of character had he omitted it, and truſted to the good ſenſe of his readers, not merely for pardon but applauſe.—However big knaves mankind may be in detail, they are ſeldom otherwiſe than honeſt in the groſs.

The number of eſſays contained in this reſpectable little work are twelve; the ſubjects of which are—1. An introductory one, "On the Object and Utility of the Study of Natural Hiſtory."—2. "On the three Kingdoms of Nature," including the ſubdiviſion of Zoology, the firſt of theſe kingdoms, into claſſes.—3. Mammalia, the firſt of theſe claſſes.—4. Aves, or Birds.—5. Amphibia and Piſces, or Fiſhes.—6 and 7. Inſecta, or Inſects.—8. Vermes, or Worms.—9 and 10. Botany.—11. Uſeful Application of Botanical Knowledge.—12. Mineralogy.

In order to give our readers an opportunity of judging of the execution of the work, we preſent them with the whole of the firſt eſſay, in which the utility of the ſubject on which the author treats is pointed out: it will alſo afford a fair ſpecimen of his ſtyle and manner of treating the ſubject.

"The ſtudy of Natural Hiſtory has been unfortunately confined by many to the mere claſſification of natural objects; and, to obtain a knowledge of the diſtinctive characters of individual productions, has been thought to conſtitute the whole object of the naturaliſt's purſuit. How erroneous, how unphiloſophical the notion!—Can the botaniſt be content with learning the claſs and order of a plant? Will he not inveſtigate its habits; the ſoil in which it grows, the time it flowers, its mode of propagation whether by ſeed, by ſucker, by runners like ſtrawberries, or by a bulbous

root, as the tulip? And will he not endeavour to diſcover its uſes, and detect its qualities? Surely theſe things are included in the ſtudy of natural hiſtory, and form indeed its moſt eſſential part; to which arrangement of natural productions is only a ſtep to aſſiſt in its attainment.

"Many, who call themſelves naturaliſts, and wiſh to be conſidered as ſuch by the world, have confined their purſuits to the collection and arrangement of their plants, their birds, their inſects, or their ſhells; and have thus brought undeſerved obloquy and deriſion on this intereſting and improving ſcience. But how enlarged, how entertaining, and how uſeful a ſtudy it really is, may be eaſily conceived from the ſhort ſketch which I am now about to give of its object and utility.

"The *object of natural hiſtory* may, with propriety, be divided into two heads. The firſt, though as I before ſaid, not moſt important, teaches us the characteriſtics, or diſtinctive marks of each individual natural object, whether animal, vegetable, or mineral. The ſecond makes us acquainted with all its peculiarities, as to its habits, its qualities, and its uſes.

"To aſſiſt us in attaining the firſt, it is neceſſary to adopt ſome ſyſtem of claſſification, in which individuals, that agree in particular points, may be arranged together. This very eſſentially leſſens the labour of acquiring a knowledge of this department of natural hiſtory.

"The knowledge of the diſtinctive characters of individual objects, which is thus to be acquired by means of claſſification, is neceſſary, to prevent confuſion in ſtudying the ſecond branch of natural hiſtory.

"Without this knowledge we might make important diſcoveries, which we ſhould be unable to communicate to others; and the information of one race of naturaliſts would be wholly loſt to ſucceeding generations.

"A knowledge of the ſecond head is only to be gained by a patient inveſtigation of each particular object; for it requires continued attention and obſervation, to make ourſelves acquainted with the whole hiſtory of a ſingle individual production. It is on this account that we know ſo little of the peculiar habits and manners of many animated beings, whilſt we eaſily aſcertain their diſtinctive characters, and learn where to arrange them in our artificial ſyſtems.

"Let us now proſecute the view we have here taken of the ſubject, by an obſervation upon each of the three grand diviſions of Nature, called the animal kingdom, the vegetable kingdom, and the mineral kingdom.

"1. In *Zoology*, or the natural hiſtory of the animal kingdom, it is neceſſary to aſcertain both the diſtinctive characters of each individual animal, and its peculiar habits, properties, and uſes.

"The naturaliſt firſt learns that the ſheep, for inſtance, is in the claſs mammalia, being one of thoſe animals that ſuckle their young, in the order pecora, becauſe it is hoofed, and has no cutting teeth in the upper jaw; and that it is diſtinguiſhed from other animals of the ſame order, by its having ſeveral blunt wedge-like inciſive fore-teeth in the lower jaw only, hollow reclined horns, and no tuſks.

"This information would ſatisfy many, who call themſelves naturaliſts; but it is far from being all that is required: the philoſophical inveſtigator of Nature inquires into its habits; as, its food, its period of geſtation, its ſeaſon of lambing, the weather and climate moſt ſuited to its health and vigour. He endeavours to learn what produces the difference in its fleece, whether climate, food, or ſome peculiarity in the breed; and is anxious to aſcertain what variety is moſt diſpoſed to fatten, and what food effects this moſt ſpeedily; with many other very uſeful particulars.

"The information of the firſt kind is of conſequence, and even neceſſary in many caſes; but that of the latter is moſt uſeful.

"If a traveller diſcover an animal poſſeſſing any uſeful property, or producing any uſeful drug, if he have not the firſt kind of information, he gives ſo confuſed and inaccurate a deſcription of it, that others, miſtaking the animal, diſcredit the au-

thor's account, and the world loſes the benefit of his diſcovery.

"II. Botany, or the natural hiſtory of the vegetable kingdom, in the uſual acceptation of the term, implies only the knowledge of the diſtinctive characters of plants; and he who knows the greateſt number, and is moſt accurate in determining the different ſpecies, is accounted the beſt botaniſt.

"This, however, conſtitutes but a ſmall part of the ſcience; there is another diſtinct department, which may properly be termed the philoſophy of botany, which is both more intereſting, and more uſeful. This includes the knowledge of the ſtructure, or the anatomy of plants; and the knowledge of the uſes or functions of their various parts, as of the leaves, the bark, the pith, the roots, the juices, &c. which is called the phyſiology of plants. It includes alſo an acquaintance with the ſoil and climate adapted to different vegetables, their mode of propagation, and the various uſes to which their ſeveral parts or productions may be applied.

Botany, in the firſt ſenſe, which may be called practical botany, is ſubſervient, and abſolutely neceſſary to the ſtudy of the philoſophy of botany; for no one, that is unacquainted with the claſſification of plants, can either convey to others his own information, or himſelf receive the benefit of that of others, reſpecting either the ſtructure and economy, or the habits and the uſes of ſuch plants as may have been inveſtigated.

"If medical virtues are diſcovered in any vegetable production; without the accuracy of the practical botaniſt to aſcertain, and deſcribe the particular plant, which records it, the diſcovery is often loſt; or perhaps, what is worſe, the virtues are attributed to a different plant, and it is only by repeated failures, and in ſome caſes after much miſchief, that the error is detected.

"It is evident that the ſame may happen to the agriculturiſt, the dyer, or any other artizan, who has diſcovered in the vegetable kingdom the means of improving his art, but has not botanical knowledge ſufficient to give an accurate character of the plant to which he is indebted for his diſcovery.

"III. In Mineralogy, or the natural hiſtory of the mineral kingdom, almoſt half the ſtudents are of that claſs, who content themſelves with collecting and being able to arrange ſyſtematically, the minerals they meet with. But in this department of natural hiſtory, as well as the other two, which we have conſidered, ſomething more than arrangement is required.

"It is the man who can analyze, and ſeparate the component parts of mineral productions; who knows the art of aſſaying, and who knows *a priori* the probable ſite of a quarry, or a mine, and can tell the direction of a ſtratum of coal, or of marble, that I call a mineralogiſt.

"The natural hiſtory of the mineral kingdom includes geology, or the data upon which are founded the different theories of the formation of the earth. It includes the knowledge of thoſe facts, upon which the art of mining, and the art of ſeparating and purifying metals is founded; and its object is to teach likewiſe the properties of thoſe metals, as well as of the earths, and other mineral productions, when ſeparated, and in their ſimple ſtate.

"With reſpect to the utility of the ſtudy of natural hiſtory, I have unavoidably given many inſtances of it, in conſidering the object of the ſcience. I need therefore add but few others.

"The grazier knows the advantage of attending to the habits and diſtinctive marks of our domeſtic animals. It is natural hiſtory, though not often ſtudied ſcientifically, that teaches him what variety of ſheep to prefer; by what means to obtain a variety of cows, remarkable for their quantity of milk; how to chooſe the ſtock that is beſt adapted to his land, and what is the beſt food for them during winter.

"Much benefit is likely to accrue from the attention lately paid to the cultivation of what are termed the artificial graſſes. Inſtead of ſowing his hay ſeeds indiſcriminately, the grazier may ſelect only ſuch graſſes as are by obſervation found to be moſt ſuited to his ſoil and cattle.

"The farmer's knowledge of the proper ſucceſſion of crops, the beſt times for ſowing them, when to weed, and with what to manure, as well as how to deſtroy both weeds and inſects, is the knowledge of a naturaliſt: and ſurely he who is ſcientifically acquainted with the growth of plants, knowing what part the ſoil acts in vegetation, and what is the aliment moſt required by them, will have great advantage over the mere empirical farmer, who has no better reaſon for what he does, than that his father did the ſame before him.

"By ſtudying the natural hiſtory of inſects, we learn the habits of ſuch as are noxious and injurious, and thence derive the means of deſtroying them.

"The mineralogiſt has often enriched individual proprietors of land, and benefitted his country, by the diſcovery of mines; he is enabled to direct the planners of canals by warning them of obſtacles, and his knowledge has aided the phyſician in aſcertaining the virtues of minerals, and of mineral waters.

"In the arts, a knowledge of natural hiſtory prevents that confuſion, and thoſe innumerable errors that muſt be committed, where the natural productions, which are employed cannot be accurately diſcriminated from others.

"It is to the naturaliſt that we are many times indebted for the introduction of foreign animals, and foreign plants, into our own country. Wheat, oats, barley, and other vegetables, which are now become neceſſary to our exiſtence, were not originally of Britiſh growth. The potatoe, now ſo general and ſo uſeful, was firſt introduced into this country by Gerard, a noted botaniſt, and was for ſome time cultivated in his garden as a rarity. The ſugar-cane, the bread-fruit tree, the farinaceous palms, the flax and hemp, have all been tranſported by naturaliſts of the preſent day to regions where they never grew before.

"Cochineal, which until lately, was not even known to be an inſect, has been accurately examined, and its habits noted by the naturaliſt. Its food is now known to be a particular ſpecies of the Indian fig, on which alone it can be made to thrive. The plant was therefore firſt introduced, and then the inſect, into the Eaſt-Indies, where they were never ſeen before. Both have thriven well, and we may now look forward with confidence to a ſupply of that expenſive article from colonies of our own.

"Beſides the above, and many ſimilar inſtances of advantage to be derived from ſtudying the different branches of natural hiſtory, theſe two incalculable benefits neceſſarily ariſe to the ſtudent himſelf, from attending to the whole, or any part of the ſcience; namely, a power of abſtracting the mind, and reaſoning methodically; and a habit of contemplating the Creator in his works.

"The firſt of the two heads into which we divided natural hiſtory, gives us the habit of abſtraction; whilſt the ſecond leads the ſtudent to the contemplation of the Creator.

"In ſtudying any artificial claſſification, a certain degree of application and abſtracted attention is requiſite. A regular ſeries of examinations, compariſons, and inferences, is neceſſary to attain the knowledge we are in queſt of. The mind thus acquires a methodical habit of inſtituting other inquiries; and its reaſoning powers become thereby gradually ſtrengthened. I find a plant, for example, and wiſh to learn its name, and the place it holds in Linnæus's arrangement of the vegetable kingdom. I firſt examine its antheræ (a part of the flower, upon the number and poſition of which depends his firſt diviſion of plants into claſſes); I compare theſe with the characters of his firſt, ſecond, third, and following claſſes, till I find the one with which it exactly tallies.—My inference now is, that I ſhall find it in this diviſion of his ſyſtem; and I have thus abridged my labour to a twenty-fourth part; for that is the number of Linnæus's claſſes, or firſt diviſions. I now proceed by examining other parts of the plant, and comparing them with the characters of his orders, and his genera, which are ſubdiviſions of his ſyſtem. I have now reduced my inveſtigation to the ſpecies only, of which there are

seldom many; and by continuing my comparisons, I soon find the name and description of the very plant I sought for.

"The frequent repetition of such inquiries cannot but improve the mind; and teaching us the great utility of method, will fix a habit of abstraction, and methodical investigation.

"In studying natural history, we are necessarily observant of minute distinctions, which general observers constantly overlook. How many hundred plants and insects are passed by every day unnoticed, each of which attracts the naturalist's eye, and furnishes a subject for his investigation. This nice attention becomes a habit too, and the accuracy of the naturalist is generally apparent in his other pursuits.

"How natural, how unavoidable I may say, the transition from investigating the work, to contemplating the Creator!

"Examine the structure or anatomy of any one of Nature's works; search the uses of each part, the necessary connection of the whole, and see the derangement that would follow, were any one part absent, or in any way different from what it is. Ask yourself this question; had I the same materials before me, of which this animal, or part of an animal, is formed; and were I desired to produce the effect that is here produced, could I form such an animal, or such a part possessing the same properties as this before me possesses?

"Compare the eye of an animal with an optical instrument that most nearly resembles it; where will you find the power of adjusting itself to objects at different distances, that the eye possesses? where the contrivance for cleansing and preserving itself fit for use, that the tears and eyelids exhibit? And where that most wonderful property of all, sensation, by which we are informed of the objects, from whose surface the rays of light enter the eye, and strike the retina?

"Compare the heart, the lungs, or any other part of the animal machine, with any thing that our best mechanics could invent to answer the same purpose. How many excellencies does the former exhibit, which the latter can never imitate?

"Suppose that a machine is formed with four partitions, answering to the two auricles and two ventricles of the heart; suppose, too, that like the heart, it is capable of receiving and expelling one ounce of blood four thousand times every hour; can you conceive that this machine, of workmanship so fine, as not to exceed the heart in bulk, will continue its work night and day for sixty, seventy, or even eighty years, without repair? Or can you suppose that it could be made to possess within itself the power of repairing its waste; and that, too, without ceasing one moment in its action? How much more wonderful then it is, that the heart should do all this, whilst the case that contains it is almost constantly in motion; sometimes inverted in its position, at other times placed on its side; at one time carried slowly and evenly along, but oftentimes jostled and tossed about or carried forward with great velocity.

"After thus examining one or two instances of Nature's works, and comparing them with the productions of our most ingenious artists, with all their contrivance and experience, how is it possible not to admit intelligence and design in their formation, and, of course, an intelligent designer and artificer for their Maker?

"When, moreover, we consider, that the instances which we have adduced are by no means the most astonishing; and that there are millions of such works by the same artificer: can we deny him the attribute of omnipotence?

"All the attributes of the Deity are deducible from observations respecting his works, and consequently from such as occupy the mind of the thoughtful naturalist.

"Who can observe, without admiration, the infinite variety that exists, both in the animal and vegetable kingdom, and yet the remarkable uniformity amongst the individuals of the same species?

"Plants and animals, that never attract the notice of a common observer, continually catch the attention of the naturalist, every one of which affords innumerable marks of wisdom, and some fresh instance of beneficence in the Creator.

"The smallest insects are endowed

with propenſities and powers for their own comfort and preſervation, and are in ſome way or other made uſeful, and perhaps even neceſſary to the comfort and preſervation of other animals. The bee, that has never known a winter, provides againſt its approach by laying up its ſtore of honey. The ephemera, that lives but for a few hours, is endowed with wiſdom to procure ſafety for its future progeny. The former furniſhes man with a delicious condiment, and an exhilarating drink; and the latter, by dropping into the water, from whence it took its flight, affords a delicious feaſt to many of the finny tribe.

"The hiſtory of the bee would open a field for reflection, which a volume would not exhauſt. I ſhall notice only the form and ſize of the cells of its comb, which exhibits marks of ſuperior ſkill. The whole comb is made with mathematical exactneſs, is divided into ſmall cells, and every cell is hexagonal. Why are they ſmall? To preſerve the honey from fermenting and being ſpoiled, which muſt unavoidably take place, if kept at a temperature equal to that of the hive, and in large quantities. Why are they hexagonal? Becauſe no other regular form, except ſquares and triangles, would exactly fill up ſpace; and hexagons admit of their being moſt capacious in a given compaſs.

"Who can notice theſe things, and not allow infinite wiſdom, power, and goodneſs in the Creator? Let the Carteſian philoſopher ſtudy but the hiſtory of a bee, or the economy of a moſs, and his doctrine, teaching that theſe things are the effects of the fortuitous concourſe of atoms, muſt inevitably give way to the innumerable proofs which they contain of deſign and wiſdom."

The ſecond Eſſay, which treats on the productions of nature in general, commences, with dividing them into three kingdoms, in the uſual manner, *viz.* the Animal, the Vegetable, and the Mineral.—The author, however, though he adopts this artificial diviſion as convenient, we may add, particularly to the general reader, judiciouſly declares himſelf incompetent to decide on the termination of one, and the commencement of the other. He next proceeds to treat on Zoology or the animal kingdom; and divides it into ſix grand orders, following the ſyſtem of Linnæus: the heads of which are to be found in our enumeration of the ſubjects of the eſſays; ſeven of the firſt being employed in treating on this kingdom of nature. The remainder of the eſſay is occupied with "Some general Obſervations on this important grand Diviſion of Nature."

The third Eſſay is on the claſs Mammalia; and comprehends thoſe animals which ſuckle their young.—After ſome general obſervations on this claſs, the author proceeds with an account of the warm blooded animals, in which he deſcribes the phenomena of the circulation, reſpiration, ſecretion, and digeſtion belonging to the whole of the animals which it embraces. He next makes ſome general obſervations on the peculiarities and habits of the different orders, and combats two vulgar errors with reſpect to particular breeds of cattle, *viz.* that peculiar and valuable ones, natives of other climates, would degenerate on being introduced into our own; and that it is beyond our power to preſerve any peculiarities of breed, which we may diſcover in animals of our own country. The obſervations on the varieties of domeſtic animals, which follow, are appropriate; and the eſſay is cloſed with a brief account of the uſeful ones of other countries, and a few arguments on that diſgrace to human nature, the ſlave trade.

The fourth Eſſay is on the ſecond diviſion of the Animal Kingdom, which comprehends all kinds of birds; in treating of which, the author follows the ſame courſe as the one adopted in the preceding diviſion,

"giving first a concise view of the classification of birds, and then making observations on the whole class, and particular families; or on individual species, as to their economy, habits, instincts, or uses." He has here given us such a complete view of the plan pursued in this and the preceding essay, as to leave us little more to add, than that any other account, consistent with our limits, would only comprise a dry list of uncouth names, which, as they at present stand in connection with the context, form an agreeable subject.

The fifth Essay treats on Amphibia, or such animals as possess the power of living either on land or in water, and on Fishes. The observations on these classes are necessarily not numerous; the nature of the animals which it embraces being, in many instances, an insurmountable obstacle to the proper investigation of their peculiarities and habits: the author, however, makes the essay entertaining.

The next grand division of Zoology, and on which the doctor bestows a great deal of his attention, is that of Insects: and the sixth Essay is employed in some general remarks on them, in subdividing them into classes, and treats on two of them in particular, *viz.* Coleoptera, embracing the beetle tribe, or those insects possessed of horney coverings, and Hemiptera, or those with half wing cases; amongst which are Cockroaches, Grasshoppers, &c. The author's attention is principally directed to their history, habits, and the means of destroying them when necessary.

The seventh Essay continues the account of Insects, and contains the history and habits of the Lepidoptera, or scaly-wings, including the butterfly and moth tribe; the Neuroptera, or nerve-winged ones, amongst which are dragon flies; Hymenoptera, or four winged insects, with stings: Diptera, or two winged ones; embracing the house-fly tribe: and Aptera, or wingless ones.

The subject of the eighth and last Essay, is Vermes or Worms; and the author treats on them with his usual ability, under the five several orders into which they are usually divided. The observations on this part of the subject are concluded with a general review of the subject of Zoology, and the best manner of acquiring the knowledge of it.

The next three Essays are employed on Botany, or the knowledge of the Vegetable Kingdom; of which the ninth treats on the classification of plants, the tenth on their structure and economy, and the eleventh on the useful application of botanical knowledge. The twelfth and last is on Mineralogy, or the study of the third and last of the Kingdoms of Nature: but having already spoken at large on the author's method of treating the subjects which have gone before, it will be in a great measure unnecessary to enter more fully into an account of them in this place.

We now take our leave of this interesting little work, which we think highly deserving of being put into the hand of every student in natural history; as the author unites the man of science with the popular recorder of the properties of the productions of nature: it will be particularly useful in animating the minds of young beginners; and will, in a great measure remove the thorns from the early part of their path, whilst the ease and neatness with which it is written will please, at the same time that it instructs. To the general reader it will be an acquisition, because it treats well on the subject, without entering into the profundities of the science. Such books as this are much wanted, and we are glad to find the deficiency in this department so ably filled up. K.

XXXIV. NARRATIVE *of a* VOYAGE *to* BRAZIL; *terminating in the Seizure of a British Vessel, and the Imprisonment of the Author, and the Ship's Crew, by the Portuguese; with general Sketches of the Country, its natural Productions and colonial Inhabitants, &c. and a Description of the City and Provinces of St. Salvador, and Porto Seguro: to which are added a Correct Table of the Latitude and Longitude of the Parts on the Coast of Brazil; Table of Exchange, &c.* By THOMAS LINDLEY. 8vo. *pp.* 300. 6*s. boards.* 1805. Johnson.

WE have no doubt but an account of a country, so little known to Europe as the Brazils, will prove highly gratifying to the generality of our readers; more particularly, as the jealous watchfulness of the Portuguese government is ever on the alert to prevent information from reaching this part of the world; most probably, lest it should become a desirable object to some of its more powerful European neighbours. We cannot but lament also the numerous obstacles thrown in the way of the prosperity of this delightful country by its own government; as, under proper and liberal regulations, it might not only become rich and powerful, but might eventually be the means of spreading the comforts of civilization through a large portion of that fertile and desirable quarter of the globe. It is a dread of this power most probably, and lest the Brazilians should throw off their connection with the mother country, which gives rise to the severe regulations imposed on them so unmercifully by the Portuguese, but which we are led to think, from remarks both in this work, and the one of Lieutenant Tuckey, given in our last number, that the time is not far distant, when the cords which bind them together with such rigour, will break from mere tension; and though the peace of that part of the world will receive no addition from the Brazils being in the possession of the French, yet French principles seem to be gaining ground amongst them so rapidly, as to leave little probability of their long retaining their present governors, at least in the plenitude of their present power.

From the numerous opportunities of examining the natural productions of the country near the place of his confinement, and from the love of natural history, which frequently appear in his journal, we are led to regret the author's want of a systematical knowledge of that fascinating science; as he would have probably been able to add to our stores, though his diary is written under every disadvantage of concealment, and scarcity of materials, particularly during the early part of his imprisonment.

The work commences with a dedication to Earl Moira, which is followed by a preface, containing a pretty full account of the author's undertaking, and of a variety of other particulars respecting the Brazils, which render it, on the whole, interesting; and though rather long, we shall present it to our readers for their inspection.

"In all states, whose wealth is immediately derived from mercantile sources, the greatest care should be taken to preserve their commerce from every species of depredation or violence that may be pointed against it, through the jealousy or envy of less successful trading nations. It was this motive that stimulated Great Britain to defend herself against several attacks made on her trade during the last century; the most daring of which must be in the recollection of every reader, that of the Spaniards in Nootka Sound; for which she eventually received the most ample satisfaction.

"A similar enmity to our commerce exists at this moment in the Portuguese Brasilian colonies, and has unfortunately been pointed with greater success; owing, probably,

to the extremely unſettled ſtate of the times, and the buſy war in which we are engaged.

"An immediate inſtance of this, particularly affecting every Britiſh merchant, this volume will preſent to the public. There are inſtances of other veſſels treated in a ſimilar manner under various pretences, and a continuation of the ſame ſeverity may be more or leſs expected by every Engliſh ſhip touching to refreſh in Braſilian ports; and even our Indiamen will not be exempt from it: but by obſerving the rules and cautions conveyed in the following pages, and the caſe of the author, (which is *briefly* given in the introduction, and more fully detailed in the diary that follows,) all trouble on this head may be readily avoided.

"To relieve the tedious perſonality of his work, the author has interſperſed it with ſketches of the country, its inhabitants, and manners; and has added a ſhort deſcription of two of its moſt valuable provinces, the immediate ſcene in which the tranſactions he has to recite took place.

"Notwithſtanding the many voyages and travels that have lately been publiſhed, and the addition ſcience has received in geographical information, Brazil continues in a manner hidden, as to the world in general; all endeavours to gain information reſpecting it being induſtriouſly repreſſed by the Portugueſe government, both in the colony itſelf and in Europe. For a century ſubſequent to its diſcovery, the Jeſuit miſſionaries were indefatigable in their attempts to gain ſome knowledge of the interior of Brazil, its animal, vegetable, and mineral productions; and the diſcoveries they made being annually diſpatched to the college of Jeſuits in Bahia, were detailed and printed in the chronicles of the order, and were the groundwork of every publication reſpecting this part of South America that followed. Theſe fathers had the moſt extenſive communication, by means of the correſpondence kept up by them in every part of South America, eſpecially with their brethren in Peru and Paraguay; and, through the great body of information poſſeſſed in conſequence by the different ſuperiors, a moſt complete and ſcientific work would finally have been formed; but the project was nipped in the bud by the fatal jealouſy of government, who, about the cloſe of the ſeventeenth century, prohibited its continuance, and would allow no further publication to be made on the ſubject. Secret communications were, however, ſtill remitted and recorded by the college; but they are probably loſt to the world, as they lie buried indiſcriminately amidſt numberleſs other manuſcripts, in a room adjoining the late monaſtery of the order, where they have continued for the laſt forty years wholly neglected, and are now rapidly decaying and mouldering to duſt.

"Thus forgotten, and apparently deſpiſed, one would ſuppoſe that acceſs to them was no difficult taſk: but this is by no means the caſe; the approach of the curious even among themſelves is impracticable, and the rigour of courſe is not leſs as to foreigners.

"It is to be lamented, that during the time Holland was in poſſeſſion of the moſt central, picturesque, and fruitful provinces of Braſil, which was a ſpace of no leſs than thirty years, the Dutch never attempted to elucidate the hiſtory, or give information reſpecting the country: but the conſtant war in which they were engaged, either with the regular forces of the Portugueſe or the coloniſts, gave them perhaps no leiſure for the purpoſe; or, which is more probable, they had no opportunity of penetrating into the interior.

In the year 1730, Rocha Pitta, a moſt intelligent and well-informed Braſilian, member of the royal academy of hiſtory in Liſbon, &c. compiled a quarto hiſtory of Braſil, from the chronicles of the Jeſuits and other authorities, and ſome valuable local knowledge of his own. This work is extremely copious in the details of its foundation as a colony, its ſucceſſive governors, its churches, monaſteries, and convents; but in its natural hiſtory, productions, commerce, and, in ſhort, every point of uſeful information, is brief, cramped, and deficient; it is written alſo in the moſt bombaſt and enthuſiaſtic ſtyle: yet the Portugueſe govern-

ment, in a few years, publicly prohibited its being read under the fevereſt penalties; and it is now only to be met with (carefully ſecluded) in the cabinets of the curious.

"Voltaire and the Abbé Raynal have alſo diffuſedly written on Brazil; the former, in many reſpects, erroneouſly; while the political and arithmetical calculations of the latter are certainly unfounded, though detailed in the moſt ſpecious and amuſing manner.

"As we are thus deficient in a hiſtory of this diviſion of South America, how happy would the author of the preſent volume be, could he amply and fully ſupply what is wanting! but at preſent this is impoſſible, though he poſſeſſes extenſive materials for the purpoſe. As it is, he hopes to diffuſe ſome new lights reſpecting the country, and be the means of exciting an emulation in ſome more competent and ſcientific traveller (to whom he will cheerfully lend every aſſiſtance in his power) to complete the information which theſe pages will only ſuperficially convey.

"The author is fearful that the form in which his work will appear, that of a Journal, will not be deemed the moſt eligible: but it was neceſſary to preſerve the connection and dates; and as it was originally written in this way, his ideas, he thought, would be conveyed clearer than by giving them a more methodical dreſs. He has alſo to apologiſe for numerous defects of ſtyle: but it will be remembered, perhaps, that it was written under every diſadvantage of ſecrecy and concealment; and ſince his return to Britain, he has been engaged in mercantile avocations, that have not afforded the leiſure he ſhould otherwiſe have wiſhed to beſtow on the work. On its entire truth the reader may implicitly rely; and may be aſſured, that the author has never permitted himſelf to write through the falſe perſpective which reſentment might have inſpired for the ſevere treatment he ſuſtained.

"In fine, he ſubmits his work to the candour of the public; and, whatever its fate may be, conſoles himſelf with the idea, that his ſole motive in publiſhing is to aſſiſt Britiſh commerce, and humbly endeavour to add his trivial contribution to the ſtock of human knowledge."

The preface is followed by a ſhort introductory account of the tranſactions which occurred previous to the author's arreſtation, of the principal events which lengthened his impriſonment, and of his eſcape. The principal part of the work is a diary of each day's occurrences, interſperſed with a variety of brief deſcriptions of the country, and accounts of the manners of its inhabitants; an abridgment of it, therefore, could neither be uſeful nor ſatisfactory, and we ſhall conſequently confine ourſelves to a ſhort account of the introduction, which will give the outline of the whole work.

The arrival of the news of peace, at the Cape of Good Hope, in December, 1801, having occaſioned an alarm amongſt the merchants at that place, leſt they ſhould eventually be compelled to diſpoſe of their property for a mere trifle on evacuating the colony, a circumſtance rendered more probable by the Dutch already refuſing to purchaſe, they were induced to look out for other markets whilſt opportunity offered; the principal of which, amongſt others ſelected for the purpoſe were, the Mauritius and the River of Plate. The author of this work was an adventurer on this occaſion, and undertook a voyage to St. Helena, and to look for a market, in his own veſſel, of which he was alſo captain.—At this place he arrived without accident, and his ſtay was ſhort: he was already on his return to the Cape when a ſevere ſquall damaged his veſſel ſo materially, as to compel him to make for the Brazils to refit: and he accordingly entered the harbour of St. Salvadore or Bahia, for that purpoſe, and if convenient to meet with a market for his cargo.

The regulations reſpecting foreign veſſels trading in the ports of Brazil are ſo ſtrict and prohibitory, as to render an attempt at contraband trade extremely dangerous; yet, the proſpect of gain often tempts the inhabitants, and even the civil officers, to undertake or to connive at this kind of traffic, in deſpite of the vexations and puniſhments to which they are liable on detection; and from this work we learn, that our good and faithful ally, Portugal, has ſo fettered and reſtricted the refitting even of Engliſh veſſels driven in by ſtreſs of weather, as to render it an arduous and even a painful taſk to accompliſh any repairs which they may want, in a place too, ſo remote from civilized ſettlements. In ſpite of every difficulty, however, Mr. L. got his veſſel refitted, and ſailed in about a month for Rio de Janeiro, expecting to find purchaſers for his goods in the Spaniſh merchants trading to Rio de la Plata, eventually deſigning to return to the Cape; but ſome damage which his veſſel ſuſtained from adverſe winds again drove him to ſhelter in Porto Seguro, where the civil governor or judge of the place, and the military captain, received him with great civility, giving him permiſſion to trade, and to complete the repairs of his ſhattered veſſel.

The day after his arrival, Senor Gaſpar, the ſon of the judge, and who uſually tranſacted the buſineſs of his father, propoſed to Captain Lindley, in the preſence of his father, to barter Brazil wood for his goods, ſhould it ſuit his views. This the captain aſſented to; for though he was aware of the ſtrictneſs of the regulations reſpecting trade, he was not abſolutely certain that trading in this wood was contraband; at any rate the propoſal coming from the governor, he thought there would be little impropriety in the tranſaction. Things being thus far agreed on, Senor Gaſpar took a journey up the country to the place where the wood is uſually procured, the ſuperintendance of which was entruſted to Sen. Antonio, one of his brothers: in about a week, however, he returned with the news that the buſineſs muſt be given up, it having become public, "that they, the guardians of the trade, were going to engage in an illicit commerce."

This circumſtance appeared to chagrine both the father and the ſon; but to conſole the author, they hinted that he might poſſibly procure wood by another channel, and that they would throw no obſtacle in his way. Encouraged by this aſſurance, he concluded a bargain with a perſon who had made a propoſal to him in the interim; and he was juſt recovering from a fever of the country when he was informed that part of it was ready for conveying on board. This intelligence he communicated to Senor Gaſpar, who, changing his former opinion, adviſed him, in the ſtrongeſt terms, not to receive it, adding, that he had ſecret reaſons of the moſt forcible kind for offering this advice: the buſineſs was therefore given up, the captain haſtened his repairs, and after patching up his damages as quickly as poſſible, he again ſet ſail for the Cape of Good Hope. Scarcely had he quitted the place, however, when he found that he had been too ſanguine with reſpect to the ſtate of his ſhip, ſhe having made ſo much water as to compel him to put into the river of Carevellos, to examine her more minutely. After a variety of cuſtomary vexations and delay, he had nearly got ready for ſea, when he was one morning ſurprized by the ſudden appearance of ſome ſoldiers, with their officer, who came on board with an order to take poſſeſſion of the veſſel and crew, and to convey them to Porto Seguro, where they preſently arrived, and found a commiſſion had been deputed from the government of Bahia, to arreſt

him and every perſon concerned with him. This arreſt was owing to an information laid by an inhabitant of Porto Seguro, who went to Bahia for the expreſs purpoſe of laying it, in revenge for the non-payment of a debt by the civil governor, whom he accuſed of trading for Brazil wood with Captain L. and that his veſſel was loaded with it. There were alſo ſeveral additional charges againſt the governor, which had no reference to the author.

After a variety of vexations, he was confronted with Senors Gaſpar and Antonio, who both utterly denied any knowledge of the tranſaction, though their own papers criminated them; and he could obtain no reply from his judges on remonſtrating with them on the injuſtice of the proceedings againſt him, "*it was contrary to the practice of their courts.*" About the beginning of December (it was early in July when he was firſt arreſted) the confinement of the author was mitigated, as was alſo that of S. Gaſpar and Antonio, and they were permitted to paſs from the fort to the town, on condition of returning before ſix in the evening. Things ſlept in this quiet ſtate, till the June following, when the governor, who had hitherto remained at liberty, was ordered into cloſe confinement, by a diſpatch from Liſbon; yet this was attended with no other inconvenience to his ſons and the captain, which laſt, ſeeing no probability of terminating the buſineſs, availed himſelf of his liberty to eſcape from this horde of miſerables, which he accompliſhed with ſome difficulty, and arrived ſafe at Oporto on the ſecond of November. At this place he found veſſels which had ſailed from Bahia ſubſequent to himſelf, and he conſequently expected the news of his eſcape to have gone before him; but he received no moleſtation, and by the advice of Mr. Warr, the acting conſul, he repaired to Liſbon, and applied to Lord R. S. Fitzgerald, who received him kindly, and promiſed him every aſſiſtance in his power. At length, however, the author received information, both from Lord Fitzgerald and Lord Hawkeſbury's office, that the Portugueſe government had reſolved on affording him no reſtitution or recompenſe whatever for the loſs of his liberty, property, health, and time. We are led to think, from a ſurvey of Captain L.'s ſtatement of this buſineſs, that his eſcape was either connived at, or that it was deſired, for the purpoſe of affording the Brazilian harpies a plauſible pretext for devouring his property in quietneſs: at any rate, it is a circumſtance to be lamented, that foreign ſhips ſhould be ſubject to the numerous vexations which are detailed in this work. The ſubject is certainly deſerving of ſerious inveſtigation.

The various occurrences detailed in the journal are interſperſed with numerous deſcriptions of the country, and manners of its inhabitants, which, altogether, are intereſting; but by reaſon of their deſultorineſs, as well as from the nature of our limits, we are compelled to paſs them over with merely recommending them to the notice of our readers.—They are often trivial, but they are commonly new; and their novelty is increaſed by the paucity of genuine accounts of this beautiful and valuable quarter of the world, added to the numerous opportunities afforded the author from his tedious reſidence in the country, of obſerving the peculiarities, manners, and cuſtoms of its inhabitants.

The volume is terminated with a neat and intereſting deſcription of the provinces of Porto Seguro and Saint Salvadore, together with ſeveral uſeful tables, which our limits compel us to paſs over, with recommending to the reader's notice.

A.

XXXV. PICTURESQUE EXCURSIONS *in* DEVONSHIRE *and* CORNWALL. *By* T. H. WILLIAMS, *Plymouth. Royal Octavo, pp.* 108. *1l.* 8*s. boards.* 1804.—Murray.

AMONGST the numerous topographical works of the preſent day, thoſe which tranſmit the reſemblance of the various productions of art, will undoubtedly, for numerous reaſons, claim a pre-eminent place: yet, much as books of this kind deſerve to be valued, we ſcarcely think thoſe to have inferior pretenſions which preſent us with the face of the country; particularly, if ſketches of the remains of former times are included in the views which they contain. Theſe reflections will not ſeem ſuperfluous or nugatory, if we place ourſelves in the ſituation which we hold, with reſpect to foreign countries; for, ſuppoſing the faſtidious obſerver to be, or to pretend to be, diſguſted with views of our own picturesque ſcenery, only ſhew him one from either India, and he will probably forget his objections, and view it with due attention. This we contend to be fully equal to demonſtrate the general intereſt which views of picturesque ſcenery excite; and will place the value of works of this kind beyond the cavils of prejudice.

If we have any objections againſt the plates which are contained in this volume, they will rather lie againſt the peculiar kind of engraving, which the author has adopted, than againſt his productions. They are merely etchings, and ſome of them of great excellence: yet, we own ourſelves to be ſo far corrupted by the times, as to fancy them tame, when the fault in reality lies with the natural deficiency of this method of engraving.

The letter-preſs is not, in general, peculiarly intereſting; but as that is only a ſecondary conſideration in the work, we ſcarce think it fair to ſay more on the ſubject; and we ſhall, therefore, direct our attention more particularly to the plates, and give a ſhort account of the merit and the ſubject of each, taking them in the order they occur. We will firſt, however, hear the author's account of his undertaking.

"The following work was undertaken as a relaxation from painting, and was intended to give, in ſlight ſketches, the moſt ſtriking ſcenery of the counties of Devon and Cornwall. An intimate local knowledge, and a paſſion for the beauties of nature, neceſſarily introduced the author to ſcenes which it would be difficult for a caſual obſerver to diſcover; and wiſhing to communicate to the public in the leaſt expenſive manner the knowledge of the picturesque treaſures of theſe counties, the plates are all executed by himſelf from his own drawings: however he may regret the defects of their execution, he is certain they will be found accurate by thoſe who are acquainted with the ſcenes which they repreſent."

The firſt excurſion of the author was into the ſouth of the county of Devon, commencing his route from Plymouth northward, towards the village of St. Bude or St. Budeaux; which affords a variety of picturesque ſcenery. The firſt plate contains a view, including the ſcenery around, the turnpike-gate near the village of Weſton Mill: the ſubject is romantic, and the etching tolerably well done, but inferior to ſome others. King's Tamerton, which forms the ſubject of the next plate, is rather beautiful than bold, and the engraving is, in our opinion, much better finiſhed. This place lies a little diſtant from the road, beyond the village of Weſton Mill. From King's Tamerton our author proceeds to St. Budeaux, and preſents us with a pleaſing ſketch of the river Tamer, and the ſurrounding ſcenery, which is, as above ſaid, rather pleaſing than bold, taken from the church-yard of that village.

The account which accompanies the plate gives ſome rather entertaining anecdotes of the founder of the church, extracted from Prince's Worthies of Devon; and what may be eſteemed as ſomething ſingular, adds, that Georges, the famous but unfortunate partiſan of royalty in France, was the laſt deſcendant of a family of that name, formerly in poſſeſſion of St. Budeaux, or Budſhed, as it is now called. An account of the late Mr. Alcock, rector of the pariſh, terminates the deſcription of this intereſting ſcene.—The next plate contains a "Cottage ſcene between St. Budeaux and Tamerton," which is bold and pleaſing, and better executed than the laſt.—Perhaps the judicious eye may charge us with attending too much to finiſh; but, as the work is intended for general inſpection, we are led to expect the public opinion to coincide with the one we have given. There is a certain grace, beyond the rules of art, which even an untutored mind can feel; though it may be unable to reaſon on the ſubject.—This plate is the laſt on the ſcenery of South Devon; and the author next proceeds with an account of his tour into the northern part of that county.

The firſt view which we have of the ſcenery of North Devon, is one of Tawſtock, the ſeat of the Wrey's; taken from Tawton, a little village, ſeveral hundred feet below it: the ſubject is intereſting, and the plate is ſuperior to many found in the work. The next place which occupies our author's pencil is Lynton Church and part of the Village. We were diſpoſed to find ſome fault with the execution of this plate, till we removed it to ſome diſtance from the eye, where the breadth of the maſſes of light and ſhadow renders it an intereſting picture: we were prepared to ſay the ſame of the next plate, which contains a view of Lynmouth, from Lynton church; but on placing it in a ſimilar ſituation, we were better pleaſed with it than the former. The ſubject of the next plate is "Dewerſtone Rocks."

"Theſe immenſe maſſes of granite rock riſe ſeveral hundred feet perpendicular from the bed of the river, tinted with a variety of moſſes, and lichens; while the Cad ruſhes over rocks, and forming a ſucceſſion of beautiful falls, unites with the Mew; at their junction the Plym takes its name, which, after paſſing through bridges of unrivalled picturesque appearance, and valleys rich with wood, flows under its fourth and laſt bridge, and mingles with the ſea at Saltram."

The Dewerſtone rocks are bold and ruggèd, but not poſſeſſed of ſufficient intereſt, at leaſt in the view here given, to form a pleaſing picture. The execution of the plate is much on a level with ſome of the early ones, whoſe merits have already been under diſcuſſion. The next plate contains a "View in the Valley of Stones," half a mile diſtant from Lynton; and the ſubject, which is the Conoidal hill, is repeated in the ſucceeding one, under a different point of view. This hill will undoubtedly appear intereſting to thoſe who have ſeen it in its proper ſituation; but the plates appear to us to be deficient in intereſt. In the ſucceeding plate, which contains an idea of the worſhip of the Druids, the author has ſhewn ſome taſte; and it forms an intereſting ſcene. It repreſents three Druids, one in the attitude of invocation, the other two of adoration; whilſt the rude maſs of ſtones, before which they are placed, is partly inveloped in ſmoke: an inſcription on it announces the end of the ſecond number.*

From Lynton, the author proceeds for Lynmouth, and from that

* The work was publiſhed in numbers.

place he preſents us with a view of Lynton Church, which is not entirely devoid of intereſt. The next plate contains two ſlight outlined ſketches; the one, a "View in the road from Contiſbury Church to Lynmouth and Lynton; the other, a "View of Lynton Church, and the general appearance of the coaſt from the road winding over the hill." Mr. Williams ſays, "The ſlight outline taken from the road is correct, and a reference to the plate will convey a general idea of the proſpect, which is given more as a plan than as any thing picturesque." The laſt plate, in the excurſion to the South of Devon, is a view of the valley of Culbone, in the county of Somerſet; but its romantic appearance induced the author to give it a place in this work: in execution, however, we do not think it one of the moſt intereſting; it is, nevertheleſs, ſuperior to ſome others. A neat vignette cloſes this part of the excurſions.

The excurſions to the South of Devon commence with an intereſting vignette; but whether the deſign is from fancy or from a real ſcene, the author does not inform us. The principal object is an old tree, which we mention for the goodneſs of the etching; if it be merely ſuch, it has great merit. Tamerton Foliot, the ſubject of the firſt plate, is undoubtedly the beſt, both for ſubject and execution, of any in the book: the light and ſhadow are ſo well diſpoſed, as to make us deſire little more in the moſt finiſhed engraving; and every thing is ſo well made out, as to afford the eye a ſatisfactory repoſe. It would of courſe have added much to the expence to have finiſhed every plate in the work in this manner, but it would have gained in beauty materially by ſuch a circumſtance.

The ſubjects of the two next plates are Lydford Bridge over a mountain torrent, which here falls into the river Lydd; and Kate's Fall, a little above it. They are both moderately intereſting, but inferior, both as views and engravings, to the laſt.—The view of Oakhampton Caſtle we were nearly tempted to call a ſcratch; that of the gateway to Oxton Houſe gives us another opportunity of commending Mr. Williams's execution of the foliage of trees; it is alſo a pretty print. The two laſt plates are a Cromlech and a Logan Stone, in the pariſh of Drewſteinton, both vignettes, and picturesque in their appearance; the former particularly ſo, from the fanciful addition of Druids. It will only be juſt to Mr. Williams to add, that his etchings of the ſtanding Druids diſplay much ſpirit.

The deſcriptions are, as we ſaid above, not in general intereſting; though there are a few anecdotes, &c. here and there worth looking at.—We are tempted to preſent our readers with the author's account of the Cromlech and Logan ſtones.

"On the uſe of this ſpecies of rude ſtructure, various diſſertations have been written: ſome conſider it as a ſepulchral monument, and others as an altar for the purpoſes of ſacrifice. When the arguments for each are ſo equally balanced, it is difficult to decide; where ſo little light is afforded by ancient hiſtory reſpecting the Druids (to whom this is attributed), the fancy, unreſtrained, roams over the wide field of conjecture: but were it an object of conſiderable importance, we ſhould more ſeverely regret the bewildered ſtate of doubt and uncertainty which each hypotheſis leaves. When the queſtion reſpecting its uſe is reduced to ſo confined an inquiry; were it poſſible to aſcertain either one or the other as the real cauſe of its erection, it becomes merely a ſubject for the exerciſe of ingenuity, and of harmleſs and inoffenſive amuſement. The religious rites of the Druids were performed in the midſt of groves on high places; and their altars and temples were made of rude rocks, which no tool was ſuffered to touch. The majeſtic oak was their favourite tree;

and within the conſecrated pale of their worſhip a mound of earth encloſed the whole mountain, to prevent the intruſion of the profane. The appearance of the cromlech ſuggeſts the conviction of its being druidical; it has juſt ſo much aſſiſtance from art that it does not appear the production of nature; and when the enormous ſtructure at Stonehenge, the impoſts of which are morticed, is recollected, no aſtoniſhment can ariſe from conſidering the difficulty of placing the tabular ſtone of this cromlech, which is ſimply laid on three others. It is well known that the neighbouring country is full of the ſame rough materials as it is compoſed of.

"If this building were devoted to a monumental purpoſe, it muſt have been for a perſon of great conſideration in the order, probably the chief Druid. Whatever may have been the origin of it, its preſent appearance is highly picturesque; calculated to compoſe with fine old oaks, and the venerable figures of Druids, an hiſtorical picture of unequalled effect.

The Logan ſtones, rocks, baſins, and circular arrangement of ſtones, were uſed for the purpoſe of intimidating the ignorant by the myſteriouſneſs of their character: the rocking-ſtone in particular they had recourſe to, to confirm their authority, either as prophets or judges, pretending that its motion was miraculous.

"A moſt extraordinary hypotheſis was formed by the late Mr. Chapple,* reſpecting the cromlech; he conſidered it deſigned for the apparatus of an aſtronomical obſervatory, and perceived 'an exact correſpondence with every circle in the heavens.—The firſt thing he mentioned was a moſt exact meridian line, made by the coincidence of the three ſupporters; that is, that the outſide edges of two, and the inſide edge of the third, are as truly fixed on the meridian as could poſſibly be done by the moſt accurate aſtronomer. The next was the latitude of the place, which was ſhewn by ſome part of the cromlech, even to the neareſt minute; as were the ſun's greateſt meridian altitude in ſummer, the leaſt in winter, and conſequently the obliquity of the ecliptic; which laſt article afforded a moſt curious diſcovery; for, by allowing the known diminution of the obliquity, he found that upwards of two thouſand two hundred years had elapſed ſince the cromlech was erected. After deſcribing theſe and many other aſtronomical properties, he ſaid, he had laſtly diſcovered that the cover-ſtone was inſcribable in an ellipſis; and that the cromlech ſerved alſo for gnomonical purpoſes he had the moſt poſitive proof; for by its conſtruction he found that there was a certain point under the cromlech, whence reflections ſhould be caſt; and, by removing the earth from that ſpot, he diſcovered a curious little triangular ſtone, which muſt have been placed there for that purpoſe.'*

"An extenſive piece of water, called Bradford Pool, is near the cromlech; it is only a neglected tin-pit, but the banks are planted, and it is altogether a pleaſing ſcene.

"The Logan ſtone is on the banks of the Teign, near the edge of the river: except when the water is increaſed by the freſhets after rain, it remains untouched by the rapid ſtream: its weight is ſaid to be about twenty tons. It has a perceptible vibratory motion on the continued preſſure of the hand for a few minutes, when the leaſt momentum will prolong its rocking: until within theſe few years its motion was very conſiderable, and the ſmalleſt force was ſufficient for the purpoſe; but the curioſity of ſome labourers being excited by the myſterioufneſs of its character, they endeavoured, by the greateſt efforts of their united ſtrength to overturn it; however, the quantity of exertion applied being fortunately inadequate, they were unable to effect their fooliſh purpoſe. The exact point on which it was poiſed was not aſcertained; extraneous matter might have prevented it, but from the etching it appears to cover ſuch a ſurface, that there may be various places of contact, ariſing from the accident of having been moved off its

"* Chapple's Deſcription and Exegeſis of the Drewſteinton Cromlech.

* Hiſtorical Views of Devonſhire.

original poſition, as related above. It is ſtill the ſubject of doubt, whether it is to be attributed to nature or to art; from which ever it aroſe, it is very probable, as rocky places were imagined by the Druids to be favourite haunts of their gods, that it was uſed by them for ſome religious purpoſe."

To the lovers of etched views of picturesque ſcenery, we dare venture to recommend this work, as being on a level with others of the claſs; and will be a uſeful companion to perſons diſpoſed to trace over the ſcenes, ſo ardently expatiated on by the author. E.

XXXVI. *The* DANCE *of* DEATH: *painted by* H. HOLBEIN, *and engraved by* W. HOLLAR. 8vo. *and* 12*mo.* 1804. Harding.

TO thoſe acquainted with the merits of the artiſts whoſe labours form the object of this work, it will require nothing more than the mention of their names, to gain a ready attention to every thing profeſſing to be the reſult of their joint exertions. We ſhall, therefore, only endeavour to preſent our readers with a correct abridgment of the hiſtorical diſquiſition prefixed to this work, which poſſeſſes much merit, and contains a good deal of information; and leave the engravings to ſpeak for themſelves. The celebrity of the ſubject, and which has been diſtinguiſhed by the labours of two ſuch artiſts as Holbein and Hollar, ſeemed neceſſarily to demand ſome inveſtigation of its origin, and induced the editor to beſtow ſome attention on inveſtigating it, and he has accompliſhed his taſk with ability and ſucceſs.

Amongſt the numerous methods adopted by the early artiſts, particularly thoſe of the monaſtic claſs, for impreſſing the mortality of man on the mind of the ſpectators, repreſentations of the laſt enemy of his worldly comforts are the moſt common; and the figures employed in their compoſitions were no leſs calculated to excite horrible ideas, than the frequent recurrence of the prototype before their eyes, and the natural reference which it bore to this formidable deſpoiler, were likely to induce them to adopt it, as the apteſt alluſion to this powerful ravager. The moſt favourite method, however, of employing this appropriate, though terrific emblem, the ſkeleton, in the conveyance of moral leſſons, was, in what is uſually denominated the Dance of Death, or a repreſentation of death, in the act of leading all conditions to the grave; and that, not unfrequently, with geſticulations, not a little bordering on the groteſque, though probably without the ſmalleſt intention of exciting the mirth of the ſpectator.

One of the moſt ancient ſpecimens of this kind of performance, at preſent exiſting, is at Baſil, in Switzerland, in a church-yard formerly belonging to the convent of the Dominicians, and ſaid to be painted at the inſtance of the clergy, aſſiſting at a grand council at that place, during a plague in 1431. This production is aſcribed to ſeveral artiſts; but the true one is not aſcertained with probable accuracy: it was, however, believed to be the moſt ancient of the kind, the truth of which ſuppoſition the writer of theſe obſervations thinks to be doubtful, and alſo that his own opinion receives farther corroboration from the number of works of this kind which are known, and which are of equal if not ſuperior antiquity. Many of the bridges in Germany and Switzerland, together with many churches, were probably ornamented in this way: amongſt the former, a ſpecimen ſtill remains at Lucerne; and amongſt the latter are, or ſometime ſince were, the cloiſters of the church of St. Innocent's, at Paris, thoſe of the cathe-

dral of St. Paul's, in London, and in the church of St. Mary, at Berlin: ſimilar examples alſo are, or not long ſince were, to be found in the convent of Klingenthal, in Little Baſil; at Hungerford's chapel, in Saliſbury cathedral; in the church of Hexham, Northumberland; and at Feſchamps, in Normandy. The ſubject often appears on painted glaſs; and in a book printed at Dreſden, in 1705, by P. C. Hilcher. Dances of Death have been noticed at Dreſden, Annaberg, Leipſic, and Berne. Dr. Nugent has deſcribed one at St. Mary's church, Lubeck, which he ſtates to have been painted in 1463.

The origin of theſe paintings is probably to be ſought for, in a kind of religious pantomime, invented by the clergy, and performed by them in the churches, for the amuſement of the people: and, as mankind are generally diſpoſed to be merry on every occaſion, whimſical repreſentations of death, leading all to the grave, afforded them entertainment. Theſe kind of performances were probably common, earlier than 1424, down to which year it can be traced, from a poem, ſtill extant, called the Dance of Macaber, after the name of the writer, which contains verſes for the actors on ſuch occaſions: one of the earlieſt written alluſions to the ſubject, however, is to be found in the viſions of Pierce Plowman, who wrote about the year 1350.

On the invention of the arts of printing and engraving, the Dance of Macaber made its appearance in many of the more conſiderable religious books; ſuch as Hours, Breviaries, and Miſſals; and a common prayer book, even as late as the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was ornamented in this manner. The ſubjects, were, however, dull and unintereſting, both as to deſign and execution; till the appearance of a little work, printed by Melchior and Gaſpar Trechſel, at Lyons, under the title of "Les ſimulachrees et hiſtoriees faces de la mort, autant elegamment pourtraictes, que artificiellement imaginees," left all competitors far behind. This book, which appeared in 1538, was accompanied by forty-one of the moſt beautiful groupes of figures, that can well be conceived, and which, for compoſition and execution, being delicately cut on wood, far ſurpaſſed every thing of the kind which has appeared in this branch of the art, either before or ſince that period. It has often been republiſhed, both in Latin, Italian, and French, and has uſually been denominated, by artiſts and travellers, *Holbein's Dance of Death:* but from many arguments here adduced, it is ſufficiently probable that Holbein, at moſt, could only have been an auxiliary in ſome of the later editions; and that his pretenſions to the original work ſo far from being probable, appear to have little or no foundation in reality.

After the various arguments which have been advanced in ſupport of the idea, that it was the work of this artiſt, it will only be reaſonable to attempt ſome explanation of the general idea which has gone forth into the world, with reſpect to the Dance of Death. To the book already mentioned, as publiſhed by the Trechſels, another was ſometimes annexed, whoſe ſubject was ſimilar, and which was entitled "Hiſtoriarum Veteris Teſtamenti Icones." The cuts of this work, which are every way inferior to thoſe of the one above mentioned, are undoubtedly from deſigns by Holbein, as appears from ſome verſes at the beginning of the book: they are, however, beſides being inferior to the other, apparently by the hand of a different artiſt. To theſe illuſtrations of the Bible were added the firſt four plates of the Dance of Death, merely from the circumſtances of their being appropriate to the ſubject, and being in the poſſeſſion of

the printer: hence, from this coincidence, and from a misapprehension of the verses at the beginning, probably originated the opinion that Holbein invented the Dance of Death. It has been usually asserted too, that he cut his Dance of Death on wood, which is only probable, though he is well known to have been a proficient in that art; and the reasons given by the editor appear to place the matter beyond a doubt.

The great popularity and success of these engravings, produced a number of imitators; and it would, probably, be tedious to enumerate the whole of the works of this kind, some of which are of great merit.—Amongst the rest, it would be injustice not to mention one which appeared at Antwerp, as late as 1654, under the title "Doodt vermaskert," or Death Masked, accompanied with eighteen cuts of the Dance of Death, in the title page ascribed to Holbein; all of which, except three, are impressions from the identical blocks of the original work on the subject.—The above-mentioned artist, however, has had effrontery enough to put his mark on them, with the addition of a graving tool; and it is not improbable but he may have repaired them, the finer lines of the original impressions, appearing much fainter than many of those in this edition.

To describe all the imitations of the Dance of Death which have made their appearance, would probably be as tedious as unnecessary in this place; yet it would be unpardonable to omit noticing an alphabet of initial letters, in which the subject is treated with so much humour and freedom of design, as to render them even superior to those of the original work printed by the Trechsels; especially if we consider their minuteness, and the delicacy of their finishing, not being an inch square. They were done at Basil, and possibly may have been designed by Holbein. They were cut by "Hans Lützelburger;" this name, with the addition of "Formschneider in Basel, i. e. block-cutter," appearing at the bottom of a sheet, apparently of proof impressions, of the whole and of two other alphabets, each having a different series of designs. At any rate, the name of a most exquisite artist has thus been preserved, and who probably may have cut the blocks for the original work. The editor fancies, from the extreme delicacy and sharpness of the impressions, that both these alphabets, and the plates for Trechsel's book, might have been cut in metal; and, as a farther confirmation of his opinion adds, that such blocks are still to be found in the cabinets of the curious.

In 1780, Chretien de Mechel, a well known artist and printseller at Basil, published forty-five engravings of a Dance of Death, as part of the works of Holbein, of which he proposed to give a series. These engravings, we are informed by Mr. Coxe, were done from drawings by Holbein, sketched with a pen, and shaded with Indian ink: they were purchased at Crozat's sale at Paris, by Mr. Fleichman, of Strasburg, and are now in the possession of Prince Gallitzin, at that time Russian minister at Vienna, and where he often saw them. Mr. C. further adds, that Hollar copied these drawings; an opinion admitting of some doubt. If these were copied from the celebrated wood cuts, they must have been done after 1547, eight of them not having appeared before that time.

It has escaped the knowledge of all the biographers of Holbein, that he painted a Dance of Death in fresco, at Whitehall, which was consumed by fire in the year 1697. This circumstance is ascertained from two sets of nineteen indifferent etchings, from wooden cuts, by one Nieuhoff, which were not published, but copies

of them were diſtributed amongſt the artiſt's friends, with manuſcript dedications in the Dutch language, and which ſpeak of the above mentioned paintings in that palace. The book has the following title, engraved in a border, "Imagines mortis, or the Dead Dance of Hans Holbeyn, painter to King Henry VIII." and appears to be about the time of William III. but no memorial is preſerved of the artiſt: the importance of the fact, however, which he has recorded, will render him dear to the lovers of the arts. The editor concludes—

"After what has been ſaid then, it is to be hoped that no additional evidence will be requiſite to ſhew that Holbein did not invent the ſubjects, nor execute the cuts belonging to the Dance of Death, which is uſually aſcribed to him; that he painted it, however, and moſt aſſuredly, more than once, ſeems to be beyond the poſſibility of doubt."

It only now remains to give ſome account of the prints, which are the immediate object of this publication. It has commonly been ſuppoſed that they were copied by Hollar, from the original cuts, but that is doubtful, many of his prints being materially deficient from both the cuts and the drawings mentioned by Mr. Coxe, and are in reality cloſe copies of the cuts in a work entitled "Imagines Mortis," publiſhed in 1555. It is therefore highly probable, from the known fidelity of Hollar, in his copies, that he either had both ſets of wooden cuts before him, or copied the painting at Whitehall; becauſe, as they now ſtand, they are not correct copies of any model at preſent known.

Hollar's prints were firſt publiſhed in 1651, with borders deſigned by Abraham à Diepenbeke, and afterwards without them: in this latter impreſſion, the mark uſually ſignifying "Holbein invenit," occurs in every print. To mention the name of Hollar, as an engraver, will be ſufficient to excite our readers to utter a panegyric on his excellence; and the plates have been carefully preſerved till lately by a noble family; but it has been found neceſſary to retouch them for the preſent edition, which has been done with the utmoſt attention, and without the ſmalleſt alteration.

The work is embelliſhed with a head of Holbein, and another of Hollar; and the plates are twenty-nine in number, followed by one of the Dance of Macaber. We ſhall merely enumerate the ſubject of each, and leave the plates to ſpeak for themſelves: they are—1. The frontiſpiece containing an appropriate heraldic bearing, with the motto Mortalium Nobilitas.—2. The Temptation.—3. The Expulſion from Paradiſe.—4. The Fulfilling of the Curſe.—5. The Pope.—6. The Emperor.—7. The Empreſs.—8. The Queen.—9. The Cardinal.—10. The Duke.—11. The Biſhop.—12. The Nobleman.—13. The Abbot.—14. The Abbeſs.—15. The Friar.—16. The Nun.—17. The Preacher.—18. The Phyſician.—19. The Soldier.—20. The Advocate.—21. The New married Couple.—22. The Young Maiden.—23. The Merchant.—24. The Pedlar.—25. The Miſer.—26. The Waggoner.—27. The Gameſters.—28. The very Old Man.—29. The Aged Woman. The back grounds of theſe little plates are generally admirable, particularly where the engraver gives proſpects of the country.

The work is cloſed with a plate of the Dance of Macaber, accompanied with an account of Lydgate, the monk, a celebrated poet, who flouriſhed in the time of Henry IV. Lydgate, beſides his numerous other literary acquirements, was a linguiſt, and a poet, and wrote an Engliſh Dance of Macaber.

The names connected with this work will naturally excite the curioſity of the lover of the fine arts.—The part which is ſupplied by the editor, whoſe name ranks high in the antiquarian world, is ſufficiently ſatisfactory as to the points on which he offers his doubts; and forms a neat and conciſe hiſtory of works of this kind. I.

XXXVII. DEEDS *of* DARKNESS! *or, The* UNNATURAL UNCLE. *A Tale of the Sixteenth Century: including Memoirs, founded on Facts. By* G. T. MORLEY. *Two Vols.* 12*mo.* 8*s. boards.* 1805. Tipper and Richards.

AMONGST the numerous literary productions of this book-making age, in the character of which, ſlimſineſs ſo eminently predominates; amongſt the various publications which hourly iſſue from the preſs, whoſe ſhallowneſs menace us with *ennui;* it is generally remarked, that novels occupy a diſtinguiſhed rank: warmth of colouring, and deſigns on a level with the capacity of the idler, along with novelty, being in general all that is neceſſary to enſure a favourable reception to works of this nature.

Whilſt we thus remark on the productions of this extenſive manufactory, we would be underſtood to look with a more favourable eye on the execution of this work, whoſe title conveys ſuch direful ideas; the plan being ſketched out with a more maſterly and maſculine hand than happens to the generality of works of the kind. The characters are generally on a level with common life, and though the incidents are now and then a little out of the common way, yet they never outrage probability ſo violently as to make us fancy their exiſtence impoſſible.—The denouement is rather too haſty, and the knottineſs of the events is unravelled rather too ſuddenly, and in conſequence rather to detract from the intereſt of the former part of the ſtory. The author, however, has conducted the whole with the moſt ſtrict regard to propriety, and has entirely diſpenſed with thoſe high flown ſcenes which enrapture the love-ſick girl of fourteen, and fill the more intelligent reader with diſguſt. In ſhort, to thoſe who poſſeſs a taſte for novels, it will be read without tedioufneſs: one object, and which by the way is no ſmall recommendation, being ſteadily kept in view by the author, *viz.* brevity.—We will, however, preſent the reader with his preface, which contains, perhaps, the whole of what can be ſaid in favour of novel writing.

"In an enlightened age like the preſent, when works of real merit abundantly iſſue from the preſs, and when, in the *Novel* department, the names of a BURNEY, a RADCLIFFE, a GUNNING, and a WEST,* have graced the modern catalogue of authors, it may be deemed preſumptuous in an unknown individual to treſpaſs on the lenity of a tolerating and indulgent public, by adding to a ſpecies of compoſition that has already, perhaps, been carried beyond due bounds, and but too many of which are devoid of inſtruction, amuſement, and often of common ſenſe.

"In extenuation of my fault, (if, as I fear, on the peruſal of the following pages, it ſhall be ſo called), I ſhall only obſerve that, having a few leiſure hours daily at command, and willing to devote them to my pen, I deemed them not ill diſpoſed of, in *endeavouring* (however feebly) to promote the cauſe of VIRTUE. On

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"* Although I have here brought to the intelligent reader's recollection only four of the writers who have excelled in this ſpecies of writing, yet how many have I omitted whoſe works deſervedly claim our attention, ſuch as the authors of *The Children of the Abbey, Nature and Art, The Receſs, The Sufferings of the Houſe of Ortenburgh,* &c. &c.

ſubmitting the manuſcript to a few friends, I was thus induced to publiſh it, as they expreſſed their approbation of it, and flattered me into a belief that the public would judge it in the ſame indulgent manner. Yielding at length to, I fear, too great partiality, I have ventured to truſt the little bark of my creation to the dubious and ſtormy ſeas of public opinion, hoping that the pilot Charity will guide it ſafe from the adverſe winds and blaſts of ſevere criticiſm to ſome ſafe and protecting haven.

"It has been juſtly remarked, that from the multiplicity of works of this deſcription, that have alternately courted the attention and patronage of the public, the materials for compoſition muſt be nearly, if not wholly, exhauſted, and there muſt be, conſequently, many which bear a ſtrong reſemblance to each other, both in ſentiment and incident: acknowledging the truth of an obſervation, that perhaps may appear further confirmed by the ſimilarity ſome of the ſcenes attempted to be depicted in the following pages may bear to others which have already appeared in print, I muſt, however, diſclaim all intentional plagairiſm, having kept in mind the fable of the ſagacious Æſop, of the *Crow and the borrowed Feathers*.—Although in this little work there may not be diſcovered either elegance of ſtyle, or brilliancy of language, the reader, perhaps, may be, in ſome meaſure, compenſated by a variety of incident; and, in preſenting a 'round *unvarniſhed* tale,' I have the recommendation of our immortal bard, who ſays—

'An honeſt tale ſpeeds beſt when *plainly* told.'

"Convinced as we are, by ſad experience, of the troubles and ſorrows attendant on all ſublunary affairs, and that few, very few, (if any) are exempt from the lot attached to mortality, how great ſhould be our exertions to render that lot, both to ourſelves and to our fellow-creatures, as ſupportable as may be in our power, and by whatever means or mode may be deemed adequate to ſo deſirable a purpoſe: for we all ſtand in need of conſolation and ſupport, however ſpecious ſoever may be the exterior: the very equipages that roll along our crouded ſtreets—the gorgeous palaces and ſumptuous retreats of the rich, do but deceive the ſight, and contain inhabitants ſubject alſo to pain, ſorrow, unhappineſs, and death—that inevitable fate which awaits alike the prince and the peaſant, the rich and the poor. It is then a duty incumbent on us all, if we cannot *remove* the ſources of diſquietude, to endeavour at leaſt to divert the mind from the *contemplation* of them; and, for this purpoſe, there are many books, no doubt, extant, well calculated for ſuch a noble end, to anſwer which, however, *novelty* muſt be allowed to be a neceſſary ingredient: and here, perhaps, *Novels* (if they are moral and amuſing), may be found to be of real uſe, and which to me appears to be their true deſignation: if ſo, I may, perhaps, be allowed to hope that this little work, (in which there is nought that can offend the ear of morality, or raiſe a bluſh on the cheek of modeſty,) may alſo prove an equal ſource of amuſement and conſolation to the wounded mind, and, during its peruſal, pour over its ſufferings the Læthean waters of oblivion.

"Should I ſucceed in ſo laudable, ſo noble an end, and beguile from the unfortunate one bitter hour of woe, how grateful and pleaſing will be my reward—a reward far more valuable than the riches of the Indies."

Ω.

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE.

Under this Head it is intended to inſert, in the MONTHLY EPITOME *and* LITERARY MAGAZINE, *a ſhort Account and Character of the principal Books recently publiſhed; and the Editor hopes that this Article will be found worthy of the Notice and Approbation of his Readers.*

HISTORY.

MR. Johnes's Tranſlation of Sir John Froiſſart's Chronicles of England, France, and the adjoining Countries; two volumes of which are publiſhed, may be mentioned as

poſſeſſing great merit. Much praiſe is due to Mr. Johnes for the pains which he has taken to correct the errors of Froiſſart, by comparing his narration with other accounts, ſome of which are of difficult acceſs. By the aſſiſtance of MSS. in his magnificent library, he has been able to add to the text of his original ſome very curious chapters, which have all the appearance of being genuine, but he ſeems to think that he has not completely filled up the chaſm.

The firſt volume carries the hiſtory down to the renewal of the war in Guienne, after the peace of Bretagne; and it concludes a little after the time when Charles V. gave defiance to Edward III. and juſt before the melancholy reverſes happened to the Britiſh intereſts in France. The ſecond volume ends with an account of the miſchief by the pillagers of Ghent, called Porhers. Mr. Johnes has the merit of having made a valuable addition to the libraries of the readers of Engliſh hiſtory.

The two volumes poſſeſs ſome intereſting plates, which elucidate the manners and cuſtoms of our anceſtors; they are traced from the fineſt illuminations in Engliſh libraries and in thoſe of France.

Capt. Percival's account of the Cape of Good Hope is an intereſting book. The views of other writers were generally more extenſive, but in this work the peculiarities of the country, in animals and vegetables, are ſufficiently noticed. The narrative is rather prolix, but ſtill entertaining. The author is an officer, occupied with the duties of his ſtation, and having had little more than a tranſient view of the greater part of the country, confines himſelf to objects within his reach; but no one has entered into ſo minute a detail of the manners of the coloniſts, nor ſo well deſcribed the country of which they are in poſſeſſion.

BIOGRAPHY.

Mrs. Douglas has preſented the literary world with a "Life of Profeſſor Gellert, with a Courſe of Moral Leſſons, delivered by him in the Univerſity of Leipſic;" in three volumes octavo. This work is taken from a French tranſlation of the original German; and though entitled to conſiderable praiſe, yet is far from being well tranſlated. The firſt volume contains the life of Gellert, and the other two are occupied with his moral leſſons.

POLITICS AND FINANCE.

Sir John Sinclair has publiſhed the third volume of his "Hiſtory of the Public Revenue of the Britiſh Empire." The original plan of this work was to preſent a hiſtory of the national income and the national expenditure, from the remoteſt periods recorded in hiſtory to the year 1802; and the author has the merit of having endeavoured to render a knowledge of the finances of Great Britain more general among his countrymen, and to impreſs them with a conviction of the importance of that knowledge. The appendix contains, among other articles, a catalogue of the works which have been printed in the Engliſh language on financial ſubjects, together with a liſt of ſuch foreign publications as relate to the revenue of the Britiſh empire.

The Earl of Lauderdale has preſented the public with "Thoughts on the alarming State of the Circulation, and on the Means of redreſſing the pecuniary grievances of Ireland;" and "Hints to the Manufacturers of Great Britain on the Conſequences of the Iriſh Union:" in both of which his lordſhip has given greater proofs of literary induſtry than of financial or political ability.

Mr. Jordan's "Claims of the Britiſh Weſt-India Coloniſts to the Right of obtaining neceſſary Supplies from America," will be ſet a high value on by thoſe readers who prefer inſtruction to amuſement. There will be found in it much of that accuracy and preciſion which men of ſcientific

views and habits ſometimes happily introduce into the treatment of ſubjects on which moral probabilities are alone concerned. It is neceſſary to mention that this pamphlet was written by its author in oppoſition to ſome ſtatements made by Lord Sheffield relating to our navigation laws.

"Thoughts on the Proteſtant Aſcendancy in Ireland," is one of the ableſt tracts on this important ſubject that has appeared. The author argues on the neceſſity and expediency of a total renunciation of the barbarous and tyrannical policy which has been purſued towards the catholics of Ireland, and refutes the objections ſtarted from the odious nature of the catholic religion.

NATURAL HISTORY AND BOTANY.

Dr. Milne's Botanical Dictionary, or Elements of Syſtematic and Philoſophical Botany, the third edition of which is juſt publiſhed, may be conſidered as a uſeful elementary work. This edition is accompanied with twenty-five new plates, executed in a high ſtyle of accuracy and elegance, and will prove a valuable addition to the book. It is now upwards of thirty years ſince the firſt edition of this work was publiſhed; and the continued demand for it, is a proof of the general merits of the work.

TOPOGRAPHY AND ANTIQUITIES.

Mr. Duncomb has recently publiſhed the firſt volume, in quarto, of "Collections towards the Hiſtory and Antiquities of the County of Hereford." This work appears to be fully entitled to the patronage of the public: the volume opens with a general introduction, and then follows a hiſtory of the city of Hereford.—In the introduction we have the natural hiſtory of the county, including an account of the rivers and canals, the ſoil, ſub-ſoil, rural economy, plants, orchards, and cyder. The Hiſtory of the City of Hereford is divided into four chapters—1. The Military Hiſtory.—2. The Civil Hiſtory.—3. Ancient and Modern Deſcription.—4. The Eccleſiaſtical Hiſtory. Mr. Duncomb has the merit of giving to the public a well arranged and intereſting ſpecimen of his abilities in the volume before us; and we hope that he will not only be gratified with the private munificent aid of which he ſpeaks, but alſo with an extenſive general ſale.

Dr. Clarke has preſented the literary world with an elaborate "Diſſertation on the Sarcophagus brought from Alexandria, and now in the Britiſh Muſeum." Dr. Clarke has attempted to prove, with great learning, that the Sarcophagus here deſcribed was the identical coffin in which Alexander the Great was entombed. This is a very elegant volume, has ſeveral beautiful plates, and is accurately and elegantly printed.

Mr. Malkin's "Scenery, Antiquities, and Biography of South Wales," in quarto, is a book of great merit; and every topic on which the modern touriſt deſcants here receives attention, and is treated in appropriate terms and pleaſing language. Mr. Malkin is an inſtructive traveller, and though he be not a profound antiquary, nor a conſummate connoiſſeur, he poſſeſſes that knowledge which enables him to paſs a reſpectable judgment on the objects of this nature which fall in his way.

The fourteenth volume of the "Archæologia; or Miſcellaneous Tracts relating to Antiquities," is juſt publiſhed by the Society of Antiquaries of London. This volume contains ſome intereſting and valuable papers on various ſubjects of antiquity, and we ſhall not fail to lay before our readers an early account of its contents.

MILITARY.

Suggeſtions for the Improvement of the Military Force of the Britiſh

Empire, by the Hon. Brigadier Gen. Stewart, M. P. poſſeſs great merit, and contain ſeveral plans of practicable improvement in the Britiſh army worthy of notice.

NOVELS.

In this department may be mentioned, "The Adventures of Cooroo, a Native of the Pelew Iſlands." The ſtory in this intereſting volume is well told, and the ſpirit and intereſt of the narrative are well kept up; it ranks conſiderably above the common books of this claſs.

"Deeds of Darkneſs! or, The Unnatural Uncle," in two volumes, by Mr. G. T. Morley, poſſeſſes conſiderable merit.

"The Nun and her Daughter; or Memoirs of the Courville Family," is ſuperior to moſt publications of this ſort. The ſtory is told in a manner that indicates a fertile imagination, and excites a great deal of intereſt.

"Fleetwood, or the New Man of Feeling," by Mr. Godwin, is likely to add much to the author's literary character, from the entertainment its ſtory will afford to a numerous claſs of readers, and from the improved purity of his ſtyle.

POETRY.

"Hiſpaniola," a Poem, by Samuel Whitchurch, deſcribes, in poetical language, the events which have lately occurred in the new empire of Hayti. Mr. Whitchurch having viſited the Weſt Indies, and informed himſelf of the different revolutions and events which have marked that ill fated country, draws a contraſt between the mildneſs and generoſity of the original inhabitants of St. Domingo, and the ferocity and perfidy of the Spaniards: the view which he takes of more recent barbarities, and of the attempts of the French to ſubjugate this negro colony, with their baſe conduct to the negro chief, fire our author with a noble poetic indignation.

"The Anti-Corſican," a Poem, by a Young Gentleman of Midhurſt School, is a fine ſpecimen of youthful poetic genius. The fire of the poet is not inferior to the indignation of the patriot; and he has depicted the Corſican in all his traits of ambition and blood.

"Rhymes on Art, or the Remonſtrance of a Painter," by M. A. Shee, R. A. is not leſs honourable to his talents as a poet, than to thoſe which he poſſeſſes as a painter. The avowed intention of his poem is to recommend the productions of our native artiſts to the amateurs of painting; and there is a very ſenſible and well written preface, with many appoſite notes to this purpoſe; and the verſes ſpeak the ſame language ſtill more forcibly.

"The Triumph of Muſic," a Poem, by Mr. Hayley, is intended to commemorate a ſtriking inſtance of the moral influence of muſic on two men, whoſe habits of life were barbarous in the extreme. The author has not been ſo happy in the verſification of this poem as in his former works. It bears the marks of careleſsneſs, and is throughout languid and proſaic, without one bold flight of imagination or figure of ſpeech.

VOYAGES AND TRAVELS.

"A Collection of Modern and contemporary Voyages and Travels," the firſt volume of which is juſt completed, poſſeſſes a great degree of merit. The firſt work in the volume is the intereſting Travels of M. Caſſas, in Iſtria and Dalmatia, a country which no lover of the arts can reflect on without a mixture of regret and admiration. The original was publiſhed on the continent in 1800, where it excited conſiderable intereſt. In this tranſlation the hiſtorical part has been abridged with great judgment, and ſome entertaining particulars are preſerved relative to the manners and cuſtoms of the preſent inhabitants.—The Travels of Kutner

in Denmark and Sweden, and thoſe of Michaux in America, form the remainder of the foreign part of this volume.—An Itinerary of the Route of an Engliſh Embaſſy to Conſtantinople; and the Analyſes of Woodward's Narrative of his Sufferings on the Iſland of Celebes; of Tuckey's Voyage to Baſs' Straits; and of Kotzebue's Travels from Berlin to Paris, conclude the volume, which is ornamented with ſeveral plates; and is altogether one of the moſt reſpectable publications in this claſs of literature of the preſent day.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

To the Editor of the Monthly Epitome.

SIR. May 1, 1805.

HAVING obſerved the attention beſtowed by you, of late, on ſubjects connected with the fine arts, I am induced to requeſt the inſertion of the following hints, with a view of endeavouring to rouze your readers to a proper eſtimation of the merits, of the diſtinguiſhed artiſt whoſe name ſo frequently occurs in it.

It is with no leſs ſurprize at the inattention of the affluent, than concern for the unpleaſant ſituation of a man poſſeſſed of ſuch tranſcendant talents as Mr. Barry, that he ſhould have experienced ſo little encouragement and protection from the lovers of the arts, in this opulent and luxurious nation, as to render it neceſſary for his friends to obtain him the means of paſſing the remainder of his life in the way moſt agreeable to his feelings, and to his admiration of his art, without dreading the menaces of indigence. Yet, ſuch a circumſtance having occurred, it no leſs redounds to the honour of the Society of Arts, that it has taken him under its protection, than it is diſgraceful to patronage, that ſuch a ſtep ſhould be neceſſary.

The numerous privations to which artiſts are neceſſarily, and for obvious reaſons, ſubjected to, and the little intercourſe they are in conſequence conſtrained to hold with the world, conjoined with the inadequacy of their remuneration, contribute to ſeclude men of talents from the buſtling ſcenes of life, and too frequently give origin to a ſtate of indigence, equally a diſgrace to the lovers of the arts, eſpecially to thoſe poſſeſſed of affluence. Hence the ſituation of men of genius has become proverbial; and hence too, an abſolute neceſſity for the benevolent exertions of opulence and taſte, in order to reſcue them from obſcurity.

The high eſtimation in which the arts are held, by many of our nobility, is ſo well known and appreciated, as to leave us little more to deſire ſo far as they are concerned, than that their attention be now and then directed to the perſonal ſituation of the artiſts, as well as to the purchaſing of their productions. And does their conduct lead us to harbour the ſmalleſt doubt of their readineſs to acknowledge the juſt claims of artiſts on their opulence? I cannot think, Mr. Editor, that ſuch can be the caſe. To what object can their riches be directed, with more glory to themſelves and to their country, than to the encouragement and patronage of the efforts of mind? The habits of the great, and the opportunities of following their own inclinations, afforded by their ſituation and rank in life, render them doubly eli-

gible for such purposes: and the productions, the result of their fostering care, will undoubtedly procure them the estimation and the thanks of grateful posterity, whilst the splendor and brilliance of military glory will vanish in obscurity, before that of promoting and encouraging the efforts of genius.

It would be needless, Mr. Editor, to press the subject any farther on the present occasion: to those who have felt the pleasure which arises from contemplating the works of art; what I have advanced will be sufficient, and need only to be mentioned to enforce conviction; to those who have neither got hearts to feel nor heads to understand, arguments would be insufficient: the object of this letter, therefore, is directed to the attention of the former, whilst the latter must be left to their own cogitations.

Those, then, who conjoin a taste for the fine arts, with affluence to second their inclinations, I would wish to stimulate to a due appreciation of the good which they may do, by allotting even a small portion of their riches to the promotion and extension of the works of art. Would any of our nobility, and I name, with due deference, the Earl of Carlisle, but allow an annuity to Mr. Barry, without constraining him, in the least tittle, in the selection of his subjects, the cast of his designs, or in his mode of execution, and further, without even hinting to him the way in which they should be disposed of, he would not only do service to a deserving man, but he would reflect additional brilliance on his illustrious family and on his country. Thus would Mr. Barry be rescued from a dread of the menaces of the habitual and direful foe of artists; and, having no limitation in the choice or execution of his subjects, he would no longer complain of the cabals and persecution of ignorance, and the restraints of willing, though misinformed patronage. Hence, too, bodily infirmity alone would curb his love for the art, and disappointment and neglect, circumstances insurmountable, except by genius, would be driven from the list of his adversaries.

I trust, Mr. Editor, that the noble Earl and Mr. Barry will excuse the tenor and intrusiveness of these remarks; the writer being perfectly unknown to both: they are hazarded with no farther view to personality, than from a desire of seeing neglected merit elevated to its proper rank; and from a wish of beholding opulence, united with taste, conferring additional glory on itself and on the British nation. Mr. Barry's name will live as long, possibly far longer, than his paintings may exist; and the name of his patron, should he adopt the plan here proposed, or any similar one, suggested by his own liberal mind, will always be mentioned with that of his protegée. It would be as presumptuous as this letter is intrusive on his lordship's notice, were I to go into a detail of the minutiæ, or farther to hint the conditions to be proposed in the event of mine or any similar plan being adopted; but, whilst intruding, I will venture farther to intrude, the known independence of Mr. Barry's spirit would probably cause him to spurn at being shackled in the slightest degree; and, an additional motive for acting with liberality towards him, would occur, from a consideration of the principal, so remote from selfishness, which commonly governs the actions of genius. No doubt but the painter would repay the kindness of his patron with the beauty of his productions: and, even should the mansions of his Lordship remain undecorated with them, he would still possess the proud satisfaction, and that through his instrumentality, of beholding his native country rising towards the foremost place in the glorious career

of encouraging and promoting the works of mind.

If, Mr. Editor, the hints thus haſtily thrown out, ſhould meet the eye of the noble Earl, or Mr. Barry, the writer hopes that they will not be deemed preſumptuous by either; and, ſhould they be unſucceſsful in producing the effect for which they were written, or ſhould they diſpleaſe thoſe to whom they are more particularly addreſſed, he will ſtill have the ſatisfaction of having, for once, endeavoured to deſerve well of his country, and of art.

I am, ſir, your's, &c.

PHILOTECHNES.

For the Monthly Epitome.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VISITORS ON THE PROGRESS AND PRESENT STATE OF THE INSTITUTION.

THE ſucceſs of the inſtitution has been ſo much a matter of public notoriety, that the proprietors will, in a great degree, anticipate the favourable ſtate of its finances, which the viſitors are enabled to lay before them. Having audited the accounts, in the uſual manner, by comparing the ſeveral articles with the vouchers produced, they find the receipts and payments for the year, ending December 31, 1804, to have been as follows, viz.

RECEIPTS,

	£.	s.	d.
Arrears on the 31ſt of Dec. 1803; received in 1804, - -	498	12	0
Receipts, &c. of 1804	3360	1	11
Total Receipts	£3858	19	11

PAYMENTS.

Bills and Balances, due 31ſt Dec. 1803, and paid in 1804 -	1087	6	7
Payments of 1804 -	2351	13	4
Total Payments	£3438	19	11

Leaving a balance of 420*l.* which has been inveſted in the purchaſe of 578*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* four per cents.

In ſubmitting this account to the proprietors, the viſitors have the ſatisfaction of obſerving, that all the debts which were owing from the inſtitution have been diſcharged; and that there is, in the preſent year, every proſpect of a ſurplus, to be applied to the increaſe of the library, of the models and apparatus, and of the ſtock of the corporation.

The viſitors having fulfilled their duty in inſpecting and examining the houſe, have an additional ſource of pleaſure in ſtating, that notwithſtanding very conſiderable improvements have been made in the libraries, the laboratory, the model room, the collection of minerals, and in the general accommodation of the houſe, the expences of which have been regularly ſettled and diſcharged, the inveſtments in the funds, directed by the bye-laws, have been continued, and the ſum of 1334*l.* 15*s.* four per cents has been already purchaſed. The engagement of men of great talents and reputation, in the different branches of ſcience and literature, has given increaſed intereſt and effect to the lectures of the inſtitution.—This has been hitherto done without much addition of expence, the preceding year having coſt little more than the year 1802, when the lectures were confined to two courſes, one on chemiſtry, and the other on natural philoſophy. The viſitors, however, conceive, that although the lectures muſt produce an augmentation in the expenditure, no contraction of ſcale ought to be admitted in this moſt intereſting part of the inſtitution, which furniſhes not only an abundant ſource of amuſement, but alſo the ſolid materials of inſtruction and improvement.

The viſitors remark, with ſentiments of approbation, that no time has been loſt in fixing and giving notice of the lectures of the enſuing

year; and that the following arrangements have been already made for eighteen courſes of lectures. Mr. Davy will give three courſes; that in November and December next, will relate to practical chemiſtry; and will contain the experimental hiſtory of water, atmoſpheric air, heat, and electricity: in February and March, he will proceed to the chemical hiſtory of water, of air, heat, light, and electricity, as connected with the order of nature: and his third courſe in April and May, will relate to the modern hiſtory of ſcience. Mr. Allen has alſo engaged to give three courſes of lectures; the firſt on mechanics, hydraulics, and the other branches of natural philoſophy connected with the mechanical arts; the ſecond on the hiſtory of mechanical inventions, and the third on the various phœnomena of the univerſe. On the Belles Letters a third courſe will be given by the Rev. John Hewlett: and a third and fourth courſe on moral philoſophy, by the Rev. Sydney Smith. The Rev. William Crowe will give two ſeries of lectures on poetry: Dr. Smith a courſe on Botany: Mr. Landſeer a ſet on engraving: and Dr. Crotch will give a more extended courſe on muſic than that which he delivered in the former part of the preſent ſeaſon. To theſe will be added a courſe by the Rev. Edward Forſter on commerce, its hiſtory and effects: another by Dr. George Shaw on Zoology: another by Dr. Henry Reeve on the natural hiſtory of man: and another by the Rev. Thomas Dibdin, on the riſe and progreſs of Engliſh literature.

Though the mineral collection has not proceeded with the ſame rapidity of ſucceſs as the library of reference, yet a conſiderable advance has been made. The ſubſcriptions and the minerals preſented, already amount to the value of about 1500*l*. The managers have laudably given up their board and committee rooms, in order to prepare ſuitable apartments for the collection, and have reſolved to hold their committees in the library, on the days when it is not open to ſubſcribers in general.—Notice has been given that the laboratory of Aſſay, is ready for that uſeful and eſſential part of the plan—the analyſis of ores and mineral ſubſtances.

As the beneficial intereſt of the proprietors and life ſubſcribers has been greatly augmented in value by the addition of the library of reference and mineral collection, and as that value would be ſtill more increaſed by completing the collection and library on a proper ſcale of utility, the viſitors cannot refrain from recommending the library of reference and mineralogical collection to the favourable conſideration of thoſe proprietors and life ſubſcribers, who have not as yet ſubſcribed to either of them; and ſtill more earneſtly to the attention of ſuch of them who have been admitted permanent members of the inſtitution at ſums inferior to thoſe of the preſent qualifications. Very ſtrong reaſons may be offered in favour of ſuch a ſubſcription; whether on the ground of promoting the improvement of that, in which they and all the other members of the inſtitution have one common and permanent intereſt; or on what will have infinitely more weight with thoſe liberal and reſpectable men who do honour to the liſts of the inſtitution, the not withholding their own contributions from funds to which others have freely contributed, and by which they have themſelves been benefited.

It ſeems to be of conſiderable importance at a time when the popularity of the lectures is ſo much increaſed, to aſcertain the degree of limitation and reſtriction which it may be expedient to adopt with regard to the number of ſubſcribers; and what meaſures will be moſt proper and effectual to inſure the permanent ſuc-

ceſs of the inſtitution. In conſidering this point, it will be obvious that, if no more tickets are iſſued than the room will hold at one time, and the preſent number and variety of lectures are to be continued, the lecture room will be ſometimes comparatively empty, and the funds will not be adequate to the proper ſupport of the eſtabliſhment: but, on the contrary, if there be no limit as to number, there might not at other times be ſufficient room for one-third of thoſe who would be inclined to attend. It ſeems, therefore, proper to keep that middle line of ſubſcription, which ſhall not often produce inconvenience, by exceſs on the one ſide, or diminution on the other.—With this view, it is in contemplation, for the year 1806, to receive the ſubcriptions of ſuch of the preſent annual ſubſcribers who ſhall continue to ſubſcribe, at the rate of two guineas for ladies ſubſcribing to the lectures only, and of four guineas for gentlemen, provided the ſubſcription is paid at any time between the firſt of November and the thirty-firſt of January next. It is alſo propoſed that a limited number (being a kind of ſupplementary liſt) of new ſubſcribers be admitted, at three guineas the ladies, and ſix guineas the Gentlemen; and that no new ſubſcriber, after this year, be admitted, except upon the larger ſubſcription for the firſt year, but that after that year they ſhall be tranſferred, according to priority, into the firſt liſt, at the reduced ſubſcription, as vacancies occur, either by death, by any names being withdrawn, or by delay of payment.—The admiſſion of the ladies and unmarried daughters of proprietors, at one guinea each, is intended to be continued for the year 1806; and the managers wiſh it may appear to be compatible with the intereſts of the inſtitution, to continue it in future; as they think it a proper compliment to the proprietors, who, by relinquiſhing the transferrable right of one of their tickets, have contributed to the ſucceſs of the plans, which the managers had formed for the improvement of the inſtitution.

An admiſſion to the courſes of natural philoſophy may be of particular uſe to young perſons, the managers have it under conſideration whether they cannot admit young perſons to thoſe and ſome of the other lectures at a reduced rate, without any inconvenience to the other members of the inſtitution.

The viſitors cannot conclude their report without ſuggeſting to the proprietors, whether it does not indicate a great degree of improvement and advancement under the auſpices of the preſent managers, that the principal buſineſs of the preſent day is not to conſider by what means the numbers may be increaſed, but to provide accommodation for thoſe already upon the liſt, and to regulate future admiſſions in ſuch a manner as may be conſiſtent with the perſonal convenience of the preſent proprietors and ſubſcribers, and at the ſame time conducive to the intereſts of the inſtitution, and to the benefit of the public. (Signed)

Beſborough	*Saml. Thornton*
Warren Bulkeley	*Saml. Glaſſe*
S. Dunelm	*Thomas Hammerſley*
B. Hobhouſe	*Alexander Blair*
Scrope Bernard	*William Watſon.*

For the Monthly Epitome.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; DRAWN UP AT THEIR REQUEST BY T. A. KNIGHT, ESQ. AND ORDERED TO BE PUBLISHED BY THE COUNCIL.

WERE it poſſible to aſcertain the primeval ſtate of thoſe vegetables which now occupy the attention of the gardener and agriculturiſt, and immediately, or more remotely, conduce to the ſupport and happineſs of mankind; and could we trace out the various

changes which art or accident has, in ſucceſſive generations, produced in each, few enquiries would be more extenſively intereſting. But we poſſeſs no ſources from which ſufficient information to direct us in our inquiries can be derived; and we are ſtill ignorant of the native country, and exiſtence in a wild ſtate, of ſome of the moſt important of our plants.—We, however, know, that improved flowers and fruits are the neceſſary produce of improved culture, and that the offspring, in a greater or leſs degree, inherits the character of its parent. The auſtere crab of our woods has thus been converted into the golden pippin; and the numerous varieties of the plumb can boaſt no other parent than our native ſloe. Yet few experiments have been made, the object of which has been new productions of this ſort; and almoſt every ameliorated variety of fruit appears to have been the offspring of accident, or of culture applied to other purpoſes. We may therefore infer, with little danger of error, that an ample and unexplored field for future diſcovery and improvement lies before us, in which nature does not appear to have formed any limits to the ſucceſs of our labours, if properly applied.

The phyſiology of vegetation has deſervedly engaged the attention of the Royal and Linnæan Societies; and much information has been derived from the exertions of thoſe learned bodies. Societies for the improvement of domeſtic animals, and of agriculture in all its branches, have alſo been eſtabliſhed with ſucceſs in almoſt every diſtrict of the Britiſh empire. Horticulture alone appears to have been neglected, and left to the common gardener, who generally purſues the dull routine of his predeceſſor; and, if he deviates from it, rarely poſſeſſes a ſufficient ſhare of ſcience and information to enable him to deviate with ſucceſs.—The eſtabliſhment of a national ſociety for the improvement of Horticulture has therefore long been wanted; and if ſuch an inſtitution meet with a degree of ſupport proportionate to the importance of its object; if it proceed with cautious circumſpection to publiſh well aſcertained facts only, to detect the errors of ignorance, and to expoſe the miſrepreſentations of fraud; the advantages which the public may ultimately derive from the eſtabliſhment will probably exceed the moſt ſanguine hopes of its founders.

Horticulture, in its preſent ſtate, may, with propriety, be divided into two diſtinct branches, the uſeful and the ornamental: the firſt muſt occupy the principal attention of the members of the ſociety, but the ſecond will not be neglected; and it will be their object, wherever it is practicable, to combine both.

Experience and obſervation appear to have ſufficiently proved, that all plants have a natural tendency to adapt their habits to every climate in which art or accident places them; and thus the pear tree, which appears to be a native of the ſouthern parts of Europe, or the adjoining parts of Aſia, has completely naturalized itſelf in Britain, and has acquired, in a great number of inſtances, the power to ripen its fruit in the early part even of an unfavourable ſummer: the crab tree has in the ſame manner, adapted its habits to the frozen regions of Siberia. But when we import either of theſe fruits, in their cultivated ſtate, from happier climates, they are often found incapable of acquiring a perfect ſtate of maturity even when trained to a ſouth wall.

As the pear and crab tree, in the preceding caſes, have acquired powers of ripening their fruits in climates much colder than thoſe in which they were placed by nature, we have ſome grounds of hope that the vine and peach tree may be made to adapt their habits to our climate,

and to ripen their fruits without the aid of artificial heat, or the reflection of a wall: and though we are at preſent little acquainted with the mode of culture beſt calculated to produce the neceſſary changes in the conſtitution and habit of plants, attentive obſervation and experience will ſoon diſcover it; and experiments have already been made, which prove the facility of raiſing as fine varieties of fruit in this country as any which have been imported from others.

Almoſt every plant, the exiſtence of which is not confined to a ſingle ſummer, admits of two modes of propagation; by diviſion of its parts, and by ſeed. By the firſt of theſe methods we are enabled to multiply an individual into many; each of which, in its leaves, its flowers, and fruit, permanently retains, in every reſpect, the character of the parent ſtock. No new life is here generated; and the graft, the layer, and cutting, appear to poſſeſs the youth and vigour, or the age and debility of the plant, of which they once formed a part.* No permanent improvement has therefore ever been derived, or can be expected, from the art of the grafter, or the choice of ſtocks of different ſpecies or varieties; for to uſe the phraſe of Lord Bacon, the graft, in all caſes, *overruleth the ſtock*, from which it receives *aliment, but no motion.*—Seedling plants, on the contrary, of every cultivated ſpecies, ſport in endleſs variety. By ſelection from theſe, therefore, we can only hope for ſucceſs in our purſuit of new and improved varieties of each ſpecies of plant or fruit; and to promote experiments of this kind, the Horticultural Society propoſe to give ſome honorary premiums to thoſe who ſhall produce before them, or ſuch perſons as they ſhall appoint, valuable new varieties of fruit, which having been raiſed from ſeeds, have come into exiſtence ſince the eſtabliſhment of the inſtitution.

In the culture of many fruits, without reference to the introduction of new varieties, the ſociety hope to be be able to point out ſome important improvements. Several ſorts, the walnut and mulberry for inſtance, are not produced till the trees have acquired a very conſiderable age, and therefore, though the latter fruit is highly valued, it is, at preſent very little cultivated. But experiments have lately been made, which prove that both walnut and mulberry trees may be readily made to produce fruit at three years old; and there appears every reaſon to believe that the ſame mode of culture would be equally ſucceſsful in all ſimilar caſes.

In training wall trees there is much in the modern practice which appears defective and irrational: no attention whatever is paid to the form which the ſpecies or variety naturally aſſumes; and be its growth upright or pendent, it is conſtrained to take preciſely the ſame form on the wall.

"The conſtruction of forcing-houſes appears alſo to be generally very defective, and two are rarely conſtructed alike, though intended for the ſame purpoſes; probably not a ſingle building of this kind has yet been erected, in which the greateſt poſſible quantity of ſpace has been obtained, and of light and heat admitted, proportionate to the capital expended. It may even be queſtioned, whether a ſingle hot-bed has ever been made in the moſt advantageous form; and the proper application of glaſs, where artificial

* The diſeaſed ſtate of young grafted trees of the golden pippin, and the debaſement of the flavour of that fruit, afford one, amongſt a thouſand inſtances which may be adduced, of the decay of thoſe varieties of fruit which have been long propagated by grafting, &c.

heat is not employed, is certainly very ill underſtood.

Every gardener is well acquainted with methods of applying manure, with ſucceſs, to annual plants; for theſe, as Evelyn has juſtly obſerved, *having but little time to fulfil the intentions of nature*, readily accept nutriment in almoſt any form in which it can be offered them; but trees, being formed for periods of longer duration, are frequently much injured by the injudicious and exceſſive uſe of manure. The gardener is often ignorant of this circumſtance, and not, unfrequently, forms a compoſt for his wall trees, which, for a few years, ſtimulating them to preternatural exertion, becomes the ſource of diſeaſe and early decay.

It is alſo generally ſuppoſed that the ſame ingredients, and in the ſame proportion to each other, which are beſt calculated to bring one variety of any ſpecies of fruit to perfection, are equally well adapted to every other variety of that ſpecies: but experience does not juſtify this concluſion; and the peach, in many ſoils, acquires a high degree of perfection, where its variety, the nectarine, is comparatively of little value; and the nectarine frequently poſſeſſes its full flavour in a ſoil which does not well ſuit the peach. The ſame remark is alſo applicable to the pear and apple: and as defects of oppoſite kinds occur in the varieties of every ſpecies of fruit, thoſe qualities in the ſoil which are beneficial in ſome caſes will be found injurious in others. In thoſe diſtricts where the apple and pear are cultivated for cider and perry, much of the ſucceſs of the planter is found to depend on his ſkill or good fortune in adapting his fruits to the ſoil.

The preceding remarks are applicable to a part only of the objects, which the Horticultural Society have in view; but they apply to that part in which the practice of the modern gardener is conceived to be moſt defective, and embrace no inconſiderable field of improvement.

In the execution of their plan, the committee feel that the ſociety have many difficulties to encounter, and, they fear, ſome prejudices to contend with; but they have long been convinced, as individuals, and their aggregate obſervations have tended only to increaſe their conviction, that there ſcarce exiſts a ſingle ſpecies of eſculent plant or fruit, which (relative to the uſe of man) has yet attained its utmoſt ſtate of perfection; nor any branch of practical Horticulture which is not ſtill ſuſceptible of eſſential improvement: and under theſe impreſſions, they hope to receive the ſupport and aſſiſtance of thoſe who are intereſted in, and capable of promoting the ſucceſs of their endeavours.

ADVERSARIA:

Literary, Philoſophical, and Miſcellaneous.

LITERARY.

THE Hiſtory of the Life and Pontificate of the magnificent Prelate Leo the Tenth, by Mr. Roſcoe, in four volumes quarto, is announced as ready for publication. The character of this reſpectable author's life of Lorenzo de Medici, leads us to expect that this performance will be well received by the literary world.

Mr. Turnbull, who is lately returned from Port Jackſon, in the Calcutta, will ſhortly publiſh an account of his Voyages in the Pacific Ocean, and of his Reſidence in the Iſlands of Owhyhee and Otaheite, in the years 1803 and 1804. This work will compriſe the moſt recent accounts of thoſe parts of the world, now made intereſting by a more fre-

quent communication. Mr. Turnbull brought with him to England an Otaheitean youth, who is ſpoken of as very ingenious, poſſeſſing an amiable diſpoſition, and capable of high mental improvement.

The firſt part of the fifth volume of Dr. Rees's Cyclopædia is juſt publiſhed.

Mr. E. Donovan, well known to the literary world by his works on natural hiſtory, will ſhortly publiſh two volumes of deſcriptive Excurſions through South Wales and Monmouthſhire, in the year 1804, and four preceding ſummers.

A new and enlarged edition of the whole works of Archbiſhop Leighton, in ſix volumes octavo, may be ſhortly expected.

The Earl of Selkirk will ſhortly preſent the public with "Obſervations on the preſent State of the Highlands of Scotland, with a View of the Cauſes and probable Conſequences of Emigration."

Mr. Sharon Turner has in the preſs a work entitled the Hiſtory of the Manners, Landed Property, Government, Laws, Poetry, Literature, Religion, and Language of the Anglo-Saxons.

Mr. Griffin, gardener to J. C. Girardot, Eſq. of Kelham Houſe, near Newark on Trent, has circulated propoſals for publiſhing, by ſubſcription, a new and complete Treatiſe on the Culture of the PineApple; in which he propoſes to give ſome new information on the culture of that plant.

The Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor have in the preſs their twenty-ſixth report, which is expected to contain ſome intereſting articles.

Meſſrs. Storer and Greig will ſhortly publiſh Bloomfield Illuſtrated, by views in Suffolk and Northamptonſhire; including all the local ſcenery noticed in the poems of that author, accompanied with deſcriptions. The work will be interſperſed with anecdotes by Bloomfield's own hand.

An Eſſay on the Accompliſhments of the Orator is ſhortly expected to make its appearance.

The Rev. Dr. Lettice, Vicar of Peaſmarſh, Suffolk, has iſſued propoſals for printing, by ſubſcription, the Art of Aſſiſting the Memory: wherein Dr. Grey's method is improved, and his plan greatly enlarged by its application to the firſt elements of various arts, ſciences, and branches of literature. By a ſet of conciſe rules and examples, this art will be made applicable even to converſation and to the tranſactions of buſineſs; and rendered particularly uſeful to all whoſe object it is, in any ſituation, public or private, to deliver their thoughts in well arranged diſcourſe, without the aſſiſtance of written notes, whether at the bar, in the lecture-room, the pulpit, in public councils, or in the ſenate.

MEDICINE.—Dr. John Reid has in a ſtate of great forwardneſs a work on the Nature, Progreſs, and Cure of Conſumption; a diſeaſe, the conſideration of which has been his peculiar ſtudy; and the degree of ſucceſs experienced by him in the treatment of that complaint has been commenſurate thereto.

Dr. Willan has juſt publiſhed the firſt part of his third order of Cutaneous Diſeaſes; and alſo announces new editions of his firſt and ſecond orders as being in preparation.

The late Dr. Garnett's Zoonomia, or popular Lectures on the Laws of Organic Life in Health and Diſeaſe, is in the courſe of delivery to the ſubſcribers.

MUSIC.—Mr. G. F. Pinto, of Birmingham, has nearly ready for publication ſix Canzonets for the Voice, with an Accompaniment for the Piano-Forte.

Mr. M. P. King, will ſhortly publiſh ſix of Handel's celebrated Airs,

harmonized as Glees for various voices, which he propoſes to continue.

Dr. Hague, Profeſſor of Muſic in the Univerſity of Cambridge, propoſes to publiſh by ſubſcription twelve of the moſt admired Symphonies of Haydn, as Quintettos, for two Violins, Flute, Tenor, and Violoncello, with a ſeparate part for the Piano-Forte.

Mr. Windſor, Organiſt of St. Margaret's Chapel, Bath, propoſes to publiſh a Collection of Church Muſic, conſiſting of Anthems, &c. never before printed, by Aldrich, Blow, Purcell, &c. &c.

Mr. Pring, Organiſt of Bangor Cathedral, will ſhortly publiſh fifteen Anthems, for one, two, three, four, and five voices, patroniſed by the biſhop of that dioceſe.

Mr. John Rannie has circulated propoſals for publiſhing, by ſubſcription, five Engliſh Operas, to- [illegible] me Poems never before gether with [illegible] publiſhed. [illegible]ms

POETRY.—A Volume of [illegible] by the late Profeſſor Carlyle, may be ſhortly expected to make its appearance.

PHILOSOPHICAL.

An eſtabliſhment ſimilar to the Royal Inſtitution is propoſed to be immediately ſet on foot in the city of London, on a liberal and extenſive ſcale; the object of which ſhall be to provide—1. A library, to contain works of intrinſic value.—2. Lectures for the diffuſion of uſeful knowledge.—3. Reading-rooms for the daily papers, periodical publications, intereſting pamphlets, and foreign journals. This eſtabliſhment will be denominated "The London Inſtitution, for the Advancement of Literature, and the Diffuſion of Uſeful Knowledge;" and it is already in ſuch a ſtate of forwardneſs as to give hopes of its organization being ſoon completed. It is extremely flattering to the founders of the Royal Inſtitution, and gratifying to the friends of ſcience and literature, to obſerve the noble ſpirit of emulation which pervades the citizens of the metropolis of the Britiſh Empire, and to find them breathing the ardent deſire, not only of being the firſt mercantile people in the world, but of becoming men of true ſcience, promoters of uſeful knowledge, and the encouragers of purſuits calculated to make their names celebrated among the learned of every nation of the civilized world.

The Repertory of Arts, &c. No. 36, contains the ſpecifications of the following patents, viz.—

Mr. James Barrett's, for an improvement in the conſtruction of Malt-kilns, ſo as to prevent damage by fire, and to ſave fuel in the drying of malt; with a plate.—Patent dated January 29, 1805.

Mr. James Fuſſell's, for improved methods of working water-wheels, raiſing of water, and in a great meaſure preventing water-wheels from being flooded, and for other uſeful [illegible]ſes; with a plate.—Patent [illegible] dated June 14, [illegible]

Mr. Barker Chiffney's, for a [illegible] poſition to be uſed in waſhing, in order to render muſlins and linens beautifully white, and alſo for other purpoſes.—Patent dated Sept. 14, 1804.

Mr. John Jones's, for a Liquor for printing and dying of Cotton, Linen, or Woollen.—Patent dated Jan. 23, 1805.

Mr. Peele, of Cambridge, has diſcovered, in conſequence of ſome Galvanic experiments, that Muriate of Soda, or common Salt, is contained in diſtilled water.

Prouſt has announced the diſcovery of two kinds of Honey; the one liquid, the other dry, not deliqueſcent, cryſtallizable in its manner, and leſs ſaccharine than ſugar; they are ſeparated by ſpirit of wine, to which end granulated honey muſt be operated on.

Mr. J. W. Boſwell, in a letter to the editor of the Repertory of Arts, has communicated the proceſs for obtaining a black Pigment having all the properties of Indian Ink, and which, if it be not exactly the ſame compoſition, differs but little from it.

The Aſſeſſor Scholz, of Haynau, in Sileſia, has in his poſſeſſion a water animal, half toad, and half fiſh, which was taken out of a well at Muchelſdorf. It has a griſly head, a flat, broad, ſmooth belly, projecting ſides, and hind legs like a toad; the back, in colour and ſhape, reſembles a gudgeon, and its tail and ſize exactly correſpond with that fiſh. The lower part is much ſhortened, and has no fins: the mouth reſembles that of a fiſh more than of a toad. It has been preſerved in ſpirits by Dr. Laube, of Haynau.

NATURAL HISTORY.—The Royal Academy of Sciences, at Gottingen, have received from M. Thunberg, of Upſal, diſtinguiſhed for his reſearches in various branches of natural hiſtory, a communication entitled "Illuſtrations of ſome Genera of *Coleopterous* Inſects." Mr. Thunberg has ſeparated three genera of the Beetle tribe, chiefly from South America, which had been hitherto confounded together. He has diſtinguiſhed them by the following characters.

1. *Magrogaster:* Antennæ lanceolatæ, medio craſſiores. Elytra abbreviata.

2. *Macropus.* Antennæ ſetaceæ, thoracis ſpina lateralis, ſolitaria globoſa, mobilis.

3. *Pachymerus.* Antennæ moniliformes. Thorax teres, immarginatus, antice, anguſtatus. Elytra nugoſa-ſcabra.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BODLEIAN LIBRARY.—The Univerſity of Oxford is at preſent employing itſelf in the improvement of the Bodleian Library: there are to be three principal libraries inſtead of two as heretofore, beſides two aſſiſtants. It is underſtood that the reſtriction from marriage will be taken off, and the ſalaries attaching to the different offices, proported to the duties of attendance. This celebrated library owes its greatneſs to one of the principal benefactors his bounty can boaſt, Sir Thomas Bodley, who quitted the court of Elizabeth, and applied himſelf wholly to the purchaſing of books and manuſcripts, both at home and abroad. He had the ſatisfaction of furniſhing this library with 1294 manuſcripts, which, by the ſubſequent liberality of many great and illuſtrious perſons, hath been increaſed to more than 8000 volumes.

Statement of the Woollen Cloth Manufactory of the Weſt Riding of the county of York, from March 25, 1804, to March 25, 1805; delivered to the Magiſtrates at the Seſſions at Pontefract.

BROAD CLOTHS.

	PIECES.		YARDS.
Milled this Year....	298,178	or	9,987,255
Laſt Year.....	266,785	or	8,942,798
Increaſe.....	31,393	or	1,044,457

NARROW CLOTHS.

Milled this Year....	150,010	or	5,440,179
Laſt Year.....	139,575	or	5,023,996
Increaſe.....	10,435	or	416,183
Total Increaſe.....	41,828	or	1,460,640

In the above ſtatement the articles of bear-ſkins, ſwanſdowns, kerſeymeres, and toilinets, are not included. This document affords a flattering proof of the proſperous ſtate of the woollen manufactory in Yorkſhire.

RUSSIAN CIRCUMNAVIGATION.

By a courier expedited by the Governor of Kamſchatka, news was received at Peterſburgh, on the 21ſt of December, 1804, that the veſſels under the command of M. Kruſenſtern, in an expedition round the world, had arrived, on July 26 laſt, at the harbour of St. Peter and St. Paul, in Kamſchatka, and that M. Kruſenſtern had not loſt a ſingle man of his retinue, nor had any ſick in the ſquadron. In his voyage he had viſited the Marqueſas and Sandwich Iſlands. M. Kruſenſtern purpoſed ſailing for Japan towards the end of Auguſt.

At one of the Marqueſas, where the veſſels ſtopped a few days, he had taken on board a Frenchman and an Engliſhman to bring them back to Europe. Capt. Kruſenſtern had not been able to diſcover how theſe men had come to the iſland where they were found; both of them having nearly forgotten their original language. He thought, however, that he could comprehend that they had arrived there on board an American veſſel, which had been ſhipwrecked on the coaſt. The Frenchman ſpoke the language of the iſlands extremely well, and had adopted all their cuſtoms, habits, and manners. It is not doubted but that theſe men will ſoon recover the uſe of their native language in a daily intercourſe with Europeans; and that they will be able to give an account of their adventures, as well as information reſpecting the iſlanders, among whom they have lived ſo long.

LECTURES.—Dr. John Reid will commence his ſummer Courſe of Lectures on the Practice of Medicine on the 25th of June.

Mr. Brookes's ſummer Courſe on Anatomy, Phyſiology, and Surgery, will commence on the 8th of June.

LONDON.—Among the improvements intended to take place in the metropolis, an enlargement of Smithfield market, and a capital ſtreet from the end of Fleet-market to the great North Road, are both likely ſoon to take place.

A Cenotaph, at the expence of the Duke of Bedford, is about to be erected in Bloomſbury-ſquare, to the memory of his illuſtrious anceſtor, Lord William Ruſſel; and a Roſtral Column is to be erected in Taviſtock-ſquare to the memory of Admiral Ruſſel, who defeated the French fleet off La Hogue, in 1692.

The Leverian Muſeum is propoſed to be diſpoſed of in ſhares, and the collection removed to the Weſt end of the town.

FOREIGN LITERARY NEWS.

HOLLAND.——The Dutch language, in ſpite of the influence of the French, and their language amongſt the Batavians, is far from being neglected; as works are from time to time appearing, which will not a little contribute to its preſervation. M. Van Streck has publiſhed a tranſlation of Delille's Homme des Champs, in Dutch verſe, at Amſterdam; and M. Siegenbek, a profeſſor at Leyden, has recently obtained a prize offered by the Rotterdam Society of Literature and Poetry: it was for the beſt memoir on the queſtion—"To what degree will it be convenient to approximate the Dutch orthography to euphony, and facility of pronunciation?"

NORWAY.—Counſellor Hammer, of Norway, lately deceaſed, has bequeathed to the Norwegian Society of Sciences, at Drontheim, not only his literary manuſcripts, &c. but likewiſe a ſum of about 20,000 rix-dollars. Conformably with the regulations of this ſociety, its revenues are employed in promoting the ſtudy of natural hiſtory, and in defraying the expences of tours undertaken for that purpoſe; with the exception of one third, which is appropriated to the increaſe of the capital. In 1799 the ſum of 8200 rix-dollars was left to it by another individual. Beſides

this, the library which in 1781, conſiſted of 12,000 volumes, has been augmented by the collections of ſeveral native literati.

PORTUGAL.—M. Brotero, profeſſor of Botany at the Univerſity of Coimbra, and member of the Academy of Sciences at Liſbon, has publiſhed a Flora Luſitanica, in two volumes octavo. This work is the fruit of ſeventeen years labour and travelling in every part of the realm.

In order to render it not too voluminous, the author has commenced a work in numbers, under the title of "Phytographia Luſitanica Selectior;" one of which has already appeared: the object of which is to give detailed deſcriptions of new or rare plants. The firſt number contains deſcriptions of more than thirty vegetables, many of them imperfectly known or non-deſcripts.

SICILY.—The excavations begun in Sicily, under the direction of Landolini, have already procured a ſtatue of Venus, and other antiquities.

SPAIN.—A work has made its appearance in Spain, with the approbation of the Inquiſition, entitled the Oracle of Philoſophers (Voltaire) attacked and confuted from his own writings: it extends to three large volumes in quarto.

TURKEY.—A variety of valuable antiquities have been diſcovered in Theſſaly, under ſome ruins. They are buſts of Ariſtotle and Anacreon, a ſtatue of Ceres, a monument ſixteen feet high, with a coin of Lyſimachus and ſome remarkable pillars. A Greek manuſcript, containing a commentary of Nicephorus on the ancients, and the ancient Greek church was diſcovered at the ſame time.

THE FINE ARTS.

The Editor flatters himſelf that this Article will be found of that Importance to the Profeſſors and Amateurs of the Fine Arts, as to induce them to make the Monthly Epitome the principal medium for communicating to the Public, a complete Account of the various New Works in Sculpture, Painting, Engraving, &c. ſo that it may become a complete Repoſitory of Intelligence in that elegant Department.

ROYAL ACADEMY.—The exhibition at the Royal Academy opened on the 29th of April; and, like thoſe of former years, abounds in Portraits. There are, however, ſome hiſtorical and poetical ſubjects happily choſen and appropriately handled; and the whole of the exhibition is highly creditable to the ſeveral artiſts. The Preſident, Mr. *West*, ſtands moſt conſpicuous in his picture of Thetis and Achilles; the ſubject taken from the eighteenth book of the Iliad: the point of time is when Thetis brings the new armour, which had been forged by Vulcan, to her ſon, and arreſts his attention while mourning over the dead body of Patroclus, addreſſes herſelf to him with anxious ſolicitude in her countenance. The figures are as large as life, and of the heroic ſize; are drawn with remarkable correctneſs and boldneſs, and beſpeak that philoſophic judgment and learned taſte which govern the works of this illuſtrious artiſt.

Weſtall has ſome charming paintings. His reconciliation of Helen and Paris is extremely intereſting.

De Loutherbourg's pencil has embelliſhed the moſt remarkable actions of our arms in Egypt.

Randall, Smith, and others, have ſignalized themſelves by their productions in the architectural ſtyle.—*Flaxman* has ſeveral Baſſo-Relievos on ſcriptural and poetical ſubjects.—

Bacon and *Bullock* have well ſuſtained their reputation for ſculpture; the former by ſome beautiful models of monuments, and the latter by ſeveral admirable buſts.

A Society of Painters, in water colours, has recently opened an Exhibition in Lower Brook-ſtreet, of ſome of the happieſt efforts of taſte and genius we remember to have witneſſed. This ſociety conſiſts of ſixteen artiſts, ſeveral of whom are of the firſt celebrity as profeſſors of the art of deſign. When we mention the names of *Gilpin*, *Glover*, *Barrett*, *Varley*, *Nicholson*, and *Pyne*, as contributors to this collection, it can ſcarcely be doubted but the admirers of grand and beautiful landſcape ſcenery, will have peculiar gratification in the works of ſuch reſpectable artiſts. Nor is landſcape its only object, the exquiſite pencil of *Shelley* has been employed in ſome inimitable compoſitions of figures; and he has the merit of having carried miniature painting to an elevation far beyond what it has ever before attained. *Hills* has ſeveral drawings of animals, remarkable for their ſpirit and correctneſs. *Pocock*, whoſe marine ſubjects are well known, has many intereſting pictures.—*Glover*, whoſe drawings in this collection may be ſaid to "hold the mirror up to nature," is peculiarly ſucceſsful in diſtinguiſhing and marking the effects produced at different periods of the day. *Varley* has a number of charming drawings, touched with great taſte and ſpirit. The productions of *Havell* demand our warmeſt praiſe: there is a ſimplicity, a breadth, and a knowledge of maſſing in them which we have ſeldom ſeen ſurpaſſed. Great delicacy and elegance are diffuſed over the drawings of *Holworthy*; his pencil is admirably playful, and the effect of his foliage is peculiarly light and feathery. The number of drawings exhibited amount to upwards of 200.

It would be injuſtice to Mr. H. A. Barker, to omit noticing his Picture of Gibraltar, exhibiting at the Panorama, Leiceſter-ſquare. The view is taken from the Devil's Tongue battery, and comprehends, beſides an excellent view of the rock, the coaſt of Barbary, the Streights, the provinces of Andaluſia, and Granada, the whole bay, the towns of Algeziras and St. Roque, the Iſthmus, and the Mediterranean ſea.

Mr. Charles Wild, a pupil of the late Mr. Malton, has circulated propoſals for publiſhing, by ſubſcription, two Views of the North and South Fronts of Weſtminſter Abbey. They will be engraved in Aquatinta, of the ſame ſize (24 by 18 inches) as the drawings now exhibiting at Somerſet-Houſe. They are expected to be ready for delivery early in the enſuing month.

Propoſals have been circulated for publiſhing, by ſubſcription, a Print of his Majeſty, in his travelling chariot, returning to town from Windſor, accompanied by his uſual eſcort of guards, riders, and attendants, with a correct view of Windſor Caſtle; from a picture now exhibiting at the Royal Academy. Painted by Davis, a pupil of Sir F. Bourgeois. The ſize of the plate will be 29 by 21 inches, and engraved by Turner.

Mr. Daniel Eccleſton, of Lancaſter, has in hand a ſuperb medallion of General Waſhington. On the obverſe is a ſtriking likeneſs of the General from an original painting. The reverſe, an American Indian, with a bow and arrow, and an appropriate legend. This medallion is on a large ſcale, in high relief, and the dies engraved by one of the firſt artiſts in the kingdom. They will be ſtruck in copper, and ſuperbly gilt, ſo as to form a medallion of the firſt claſs in the cabinets of the virtuoſa.

We have to announce a new edition of Mr. Flaxman's Deſigns illuſtrative of Homer, with ſeveral additional plates.

The Royal Academy of Arts will ſhortly publiſh Academic Annals for 1804 and 1805.

The firſt number is juſt publiſhed of Engravings of the Egyptian Monuments in the Britiſh Muſeum.—The drawings have been made by Mr. Alexander; and Mr. Medland, whoſe talents are well known, has engraved them in his beſt ſtyle. In the number of theſe monuments is the celebrated ſtone with the Hieroglyphic, Egyptian, and Greek inſcriptions, found at Roſetta; the magnificent Sarcophagus from Alexandria, which Dr. Clarke, in his elegant work, entitled "The Tomb of Alexander," has evinced to have been the coffin in which that hero was enſhrined; and a great many other curious and valuable remains of antiquity. For the preſervation of the monuments repreſented in this publication, the ſum of 8000l. has been granted by parliament, and an edifice for the purpoſe is now building at the Britiſh Muſeum. This collection of monuments is propoſed to be included in twelve numbers, to be publiſhed at ſhort intervals, with deſcriptive accounts in Engliſh and French.

Mr. Bowyer has obtained an act of parliament to enable him to diſpoſe of the Pictures in the Hiſtoric Gallery, Pall-Mall, ſeventy-one in number, painted by the members of the Royal Academy; with a great many Engravings, ſome of which have not yet been publiſhed.

There is now exhibiting at Macklin's, in Fleet-ſtreet, a Collection of about one hundred of Moreland's beſt Pictures, the property of a gentleman, who has removed them from his reſidence, for the purpoſe of contributing all in his power to the encouragement of the Engliſh School.

R. K. Porter, Eſq. has lately opened a Panoramic Picture of the Battle of Agincourt, for the public inſpection, at the Lyceum, in the Strand. It is painted the ſame ſize as the celebrated ones by the ſame artiſt, lately exhibited; and covers 2807 ſquare feet of canvas. It alſo exhibits many portraits of the Engliſh and French nobility.

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